

Fish & Wildlife Service seeks to leghold trap & shoot feral cats

VENTURA—“The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is proposing to use padded leg traps and hunters to eradicate 100 to 200 feral cats now living on U.S. Navy-owned San Nicolas Island to protect endangered species,” *Ventura County Star* reporter Scott Hadly revealed on June 6, 2008. “Dogs also would be used to flush out some of the harder-to-catch cats, according to the plan. The cats would be shot or given a lethal injection on the spot,” Hadly wrote.

14,000-acre San Nicholas Island, 60



Feral cat. (Kim Bartlett)

miles off the California coast, is part of a U.S. Navy sea test range. The only human residents are Navy personnel. The Fish & Wildlife Service contends that the habitat is too rugged and inaccessible for neuter/return cat control to be practicable, and that the cats are much too wild to be tamed for possible adoption.

The cats, reportedly on the island for more than 50 years, are blamed for killing Brandt’s cormorants, western gulls, deer mice, and two federally protected threatened species, western snowy plovers and island night lizards. “Because the wild cats are hunters, they compete for scarce food with the native island fox, also a threatened species,” wrote Hadly.

The Fish & Wildlife Service proposal to trap and shoot cats was immediately opposed by Humane Society of the U.S. feral cat program chief Nancy Peterson, but she had only until June 17, 2008 to rally opposition—unless the Fish & Wildlife Service is persuaded to extend the comment period.

[Details of the cat-killing plan were posted to <www.montrose restoration.gov>. Comments could be e-mailed to <fw8cfwocomments@fws.gov>, or could be sent by conventional mail to Jane Hendron, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 6010 Hidden Valley Road, Carlsbad, CA 92011.]

(continued on page 18)



Displaced Chinese family living with their dogs in a tent. (Doris Yiu)

Rescuers rock in Sichuan

CHENGDU—“People and bears okay although buildings damaged,” e-mailed Animals Asia Foundation founder

Jill Robinson in the first hours after an earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale struck northern Sichuan, China.

Based near Chengdu, the Sichuan capital, the Animals Asia Foundation’s China Bear Rescue Centre was far south of the earthquake epicenter, yet still within the radius of catastrophic damage. More than 80,000 humans and 12 million livestock died, according to official estimates. Hitting at 2:28 p.m. on May 12, 2008, the quake was followed by aftershocks for more than three weeks, many of them of Richter magnitude 6.0 or larger.

“The quake was felt at the sanctuary and everyone ran to the car park,” Robinson added. “Phone lines are down and communication by e-mail is sporadic.”

Robinson, at the Animals Asia (continued on page 9)

ANIMAL PEOPLE

News For People Who Care

About Animals

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Live cattle exports from Down Under to Egypt resume—new *fatwa* may help

CAIRO, CANBERRA—Australian agriculture minister Tony Burke on May 9, 2008 authorized resumption of live cattle exports to Egypt.

Previous agriculture minister Peter McGuarin on February 26, 2006 suspended cattle exports to Egypt, after the Australian edition of the television magazine show *60 Minutes* aired video of abuses at the Bassetin slaughterhouse near Cairo.

Taken in January 2006 by Animals Australia investigator Lyn White, the video showed workers poking out the eyes of cattle and cutting their leg tendons before subjecting them to a version of *halla* slaughter that clearly flunked the goal of the animals not suffering. The procedures were immediately denounced by Australian Federation of Islamic Councils hallal certification representative Munir Hussain.

“Australian cattle will only be imported to Egypt into the new state-of-the-art feedlot and processing facility in Ain Sokhna,” Burke told Australian Broadcasting Corporation reporter Jane Bardon. “They will be handled and slaughtered in accordance with international standards for animal welfare.”

Added Bardon, “Burke says a memorandum of understanding to be signed on live

animal export welfare with Egypt will ‘require monitoring and recording the movements of Australian dairy cattle. Australian officials and industry assessed the Ain Sokhna facility and were satisfied it was consistent with World Organization for Animal Health guidelines for animal welfare. Cattle will not be permitted to be moved to other Egyptian abattoirs or feedlots.”

Responded Royal SPCA of Australia scientific officer for farm animals Melina Tensen, “The standards in Middle Eastern abattoirs and also in this new Egyptian abattoir are nowhere near the standards of slaughter here in Australia. For example, animals are not stunned in the Middle East, nor are they going to be stunned in this abattoir in Egypt, as far as we understand.”

Pre-stunning is not traditionally part of *halla* and kosher slaughter, which are done by millenias-old procedures originally meant to reduce animal suffering at slaughter as much as possible with Bronze Age technology. Some religious authorities have declared that pre-stunning is permitted under the kosher slaughter laws proclaimed by Moses and the *halla* slaughter laws proclaimed by Mohamed, but the topic is still under intense debate.

(continued on page 15)



Animals raised for sale to ethnic communities maintaining “old country” slaughtering and butchering customs are among those most likely to go to seldom inspected local abattoirs. (Merritt Clifton)

USDA to reinstate ban on slaughtering downed cattle for human consumption

WASHINGTON D.C.—U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer on May 20, 2008 concluded a 60-day review of U.S. slaughtering procedures by announcing a total ban on killing for human consumption any cattle “who are too weak to rise or walk.”

“The planned change would shut down an exception that allows a small number of so-called ‘downer’ cattle into the food supply if they pass veterinary inspection,” explained Associated Press writer Erica Werner. “Downer cows pose increased risk for mad cow disease, *E. coli* and other infections, partly because they typically wallow in feces. They are already mostly banned from slaughter [for human consumption], but under current rules can be allowed if they fall down after passing an initial veterinary inspection, and then are re-inspected and pass that second inspection, too.”

“More changes could be on the way,” added Reuters correspondent Christopher Doering. “USDA inspector gen-

eral Phyllis Fong is working on a separate investigation into the treatment of animals at slaughter plants, and the USDA is still analyzing the results from its 60-day review.”

Of the 34 million cattle sent to slaughter in the U.S. in 2007, about 2,700 went down and were reinspected, according to USDA data. Fewer than 1,000 passed the reinspection.

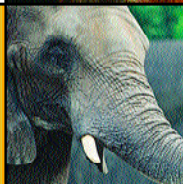
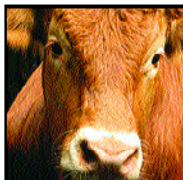
“The review [of slaughtering protocol] was prompted by a 143-million-pound beef recall in February 2008,” Werner recalled, “ordered after the Humane Society of the United States released undercover video showing employees abusing downer cows at the Westland/Hallmark Meat Company in Chino, California. Downer cows at the plant were slaughtered without the required second veterinary inspection.”

The USDA in April 2008 billed the now closed Westland/Hallmark slaughterhouse for \$67.2 million, about two-thirds of (continued on page 19)

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Editorial feature

No need to apologize for helping animals

Once upon a time at the earliest edge of recorded memory, the earth shook, the sky caught fire, the sea rose, a tidal wave swept away anything standing, and for forty days and forty nights a torrential rain and wet ash covered everything left.

The myths of at least 35 ancient cultures representing every inhabited continent and many remote islands recall that event, in at least 175 different versions of the story, which appears to be among the oldest, most ubiquitous, and still among the most popular of all stories. Many peoples date their history from whatever happened. The number of human survivors is said to have been anywhere from just one pregnant woman to 30 scattered individuals—and their animals.

What exactly inspired the Great Flood myths, when the catastrophe occurred, and where it occurred are all keenly debated. The myths all seem to describe the same event, but may recount the travails of several different people in widely separated parts of the world.

Among them, though, the best-remembered was a man named Noah, according to western monotheistic religious tradition, or either a man or woman called Nu Wa according to versions found in China. The name of this person varies considerably in other traditions. In an Australian aboriginal version he was not a person at all, but rather a pelican. All versions agree, however, that this individual had some premonition of the impending disaster, usually that he was warned by divinity. He or she prepared the ark, a great chest, a canoe, a raft, a sealed jar, or a high mountain cave just before the disaster hit.

From the Middle East to the Native Americans of the Mississippi Delta, it is recalled that this fortuitously forewarned individual saved, along with his own family, pairs of every kind of land animal, or at least every animal useful to humans. Everyone else drowned.

The accounts vary as to whether humanity deserved the deluge. Yet there is no disagreement whatever that Noah, by any name, did right in saving the animals, even at cost of the deaths of fellow humans, who might have had their places on the ark. In no version of the story, even those that do not attribute the Great Flood to a divine effort to cleanse the world of human sin, did any deity command that saving humans should be a higher priority than saving the pairs of animals.

Despite the enduring popularity of the Noah legend, which is recalled in the names of hundreds of humane societies worldwide, some animal advocacy groups today seem embarrassed to have saving animals as their mandate following disasters.

Proclaimed the spring/summer 2008 edition of RSPCA International News, published by the Royal SPCA of Great Britain: “We are often asked: Why does the RSPCA provide aid for animals following a disaster; surely people should come first? We would certainly agree with the second statement, but there are many reasons why animal welfare organizations should act to complement the work of governments and humanitarian organizations during times of disaster.

“The role animals play can be divided into two parts—during and after the disaster,” the RSPCA continued and qualified. “During the disaster, people often put the welfare of their animals first because they depend on them to ensure the welfare of their own families. This can even extend to pet animals, as seen in the Hurricane Katrina disaster when many people were reluctant to leave their homes unless their pets were evacuated as well.

“After the disaster, animals play a key practical role helping people rebuild their lives. They aid physical, economical and emotional recovery. In our experience, people affected by disasters are very grateful for any help that can be provided for their animals.”

While the latter is most certainly true, omitted from the RSPCA statement was any mention of animal victims of disasters being deserving of compassion and consideration in their own right.

The RSPCA acknowledged the feelings of Hurricane Katrina and other disaster victims about the importance of saving their animals, but reduced this to a purely personal, self-interested, and pragmatic equation. This overlooks that dozens and perhaps hundreds of people in New Orleans and other communities flooded by Katrina, who had never rescued animals before, took in as many as they could collect—and so did human victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami, slightly more than nine months earlier.

Indeed, one would have a difficult time finding any major disaster, from avalanches to wars, in which human victims have not responded generously to the suffering of animals completely unknown to them, who shared their plight.

Afterward some of the spontaneous animals rescuers have articulated various reasons for helping the animals, but others have simply shrugged. They helped because help was needed, and they were able to give it. No further pretext seemed necessary.

ANIMAL PEOPLE wondered what other international charities involved in animal disaster relief might say, so circulated the RSPCA statement for comment.

Responded Humane Society of the U.S. president Wayne Pacelle, “In our modern society, the lives of people and animals are entangled, and we know from first-hand experience that many people will not leave a disaster area unless they know their animals will also be provided safe passage. Any disaster response that excludes animals, or treats them as a low priority, is doomed to fail.”

In other words, animals must be rescued as part of helping people.

The lesson taught by a fish

The lives of people and animals were at least as intertwined in the time of Noah as today. Some of the Great Flood stories indicate that Noah rescued animals to serve human interests—but others do not. The Noah figure was named Satyavrata in one of the several Hindu versions. He had once rescued a fish. The fish returned to reciprocate the favor in the time of crisis, emphasizing the lesson that compassion for animals is never wasted.

Wrote World Society for the Protection of Animals director of disaster management Philip Russell, also taking a line centered on human need, “WSPA agrees in principle with the RSPCA that following a disaster people should come first. That said, given that animals are of critical importance to people, it follows that WSPA and other animal welfare organizations engaged in disaster relief and risk reduction activities compliment the work of humanitarian agencies. That being the case, it is essential that the importance of animals in disaster situations is formally accepted by governments, international bodies, and the humanitarian community, with whom the animal welfare movement should work more closely in the future.

“Governments rightly see humans as the most important element in disaster management,” Russell elaborated. “In developing countries, given scarce resources, animals are generally considered a low priority for risk reduction and emergency response. However, as a major international and global animal welfare organisation, sitting as it does at the core of a worldwide alliance of 900 member societies in some 150 countries, it is incumbent upon WSPA that it champions the cause of protecting animals from suffering from the impact of disasters on ethical welfare grounds alone. This pure animal welfare need underpins all WSPA disaster management activity even if, in order to focus the minds of stakeholders on the most persuasive and relevant arguments, that need is sometimes unspoken.”

Russell also sent a prepared statement that WSPA distributes in response to similar inquiries received from other directions.

“The answer to the question ‘Why should we care about animals during times of crisis?’ is almost self-evident, given the extent to which people depend on animals for food, for livelihood, and for cultural and psychological reasons,” the prepared statement opened, “as well as the duty of humans to protect the animals in our care. WSPA works to protect animals through risk reduction and emergency relief activities because animals matter in disasters as well as in day-to-day life.”

The early mention of “animals for food” recurs in ensuing paragraphs in a manner suggestive of a briefing from the livestock industry. WSPA, for example, reminds that “the food animal industry is a key contributor to a country’s economic output,” and asserts that, “At all levels, livestock forms the basis for livelihood protection, poverty reduction and food security,” as if crop production did not happen to be the basis for raising livestock, and a much less costly and ecologically damaging means of feeding people too.

“If animals are allowed to die from the impact of disaster, there can be a massive and negative impact on the well-being of whole nations and/or regional communities,” says WSPA. “The human/animal bond means that there is an inherent duty and responsibility for the owners of animals to care for their animals properly. While pet owners are an obvious example of how this human/animal bond manifests, livestock farmers also exhibit this in different ways and to varying degrees...People suffer from psychological pain when their animals are affected by disaster and they are unable to help them.”

After discussing how animal suffering due to disaster may harm human interests, the WSPA statement mentions that, “WSPA is working with its global animal welfare partners to secure a United Nations Declaration on Animal Welfare,” to “secure recognition that animals are sentient and therefore suffer, that their welfare needs should be respected, and that animals should be protected by law.”

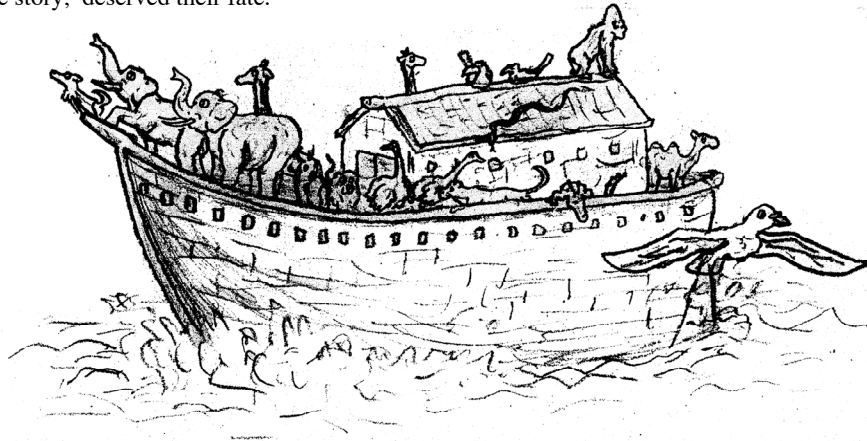
Yet this, coming closest to what donors and the public might expect of an animal advocacy charity, is appended almost as an afterthought.

Best Friends Animal Society cofounder Michael Mountain came closest to articulating the perspective of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

“I’d say that it’s not a question of what’s first or second,” Mountain said, “since neither is being done at the expense of the other. The human relief organizations focus mainly on the humans, and the animal-relief organizations focus mainly on the other animals. The two complement each other. For example, after the earthquake in Peru last year, Best Friends worked with local animal organizations to start spay/neuter programs for animals in and around affected towns and cities. There were health scares, including rabies scares, and having the animal side of things being managed by competent organizations who could help local veterinarians do their job was a major assist to the local authorities. The mayor of one city actually drove around the streets with a bullhorn encouraging people to bring in their pets for spay/neuter and health checks.

“It is not simply in relation to disaster relief that this question arises,” Mountain added. “There will always be a few people complaining that animal charities should be helping people instead of animals. Our experience has been that such people are invariably doing absolutely nothing themselves to help anything or anyone.”

Noah, or whatever the person’s name, had a mission to save animals, and proceeded despite naysayers and scoffers. Noah’s critics not only drowned, but in many versions of the story, deserved their fate.



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President & Administrator:

Kim Bartlett – anpeople@whidbey.com

Editor: Merritt Clifton – anmplpepl@whidbey.com

Web producer: Patrice Greanville

Associate web producer: Susanna Richer

Newswire monitor: Cathy Young Czapla

P.O. Box 960

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—Wolf Clifton

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Sofia city sterilization program excludes pets

Two days prior to the Orthodox Easter, the Municipal Council of Sofia adopted a stray dog population control program for 2008-2011. Municipal animal control director Miroslav Naydenov stressed in the media that the new national animal protection act gives the municipalities until January 2011 to shelter all stray dogs.

Unfortunately the Sofia program does not include adequate solutions for the problem. The situation was already complicated by the national prohibition of killing animals for population control, while failing to provide adequately for sterilizing pets. The only pet population control measures included in the municipal program are the introduction of dog registration with increased fees for keeping unsterilized dogs.

According to Naydenov there are about 100,000 owned dogs in

Sofia. Therefore an income of about two million leva per year is expected [from registration fees]. So the logical question arises: for what is Sofia going to use the income from the new tax? In 2007 the main activity declared by the animal control agency was sterilizing almost 4,000 dogs. Most were returned to the streets and only few hundreds were adopted. The agency budget was 920,000 leva.

Taking into account the recent proposals made by Miroslav Naydenov, we could expect that the existing practice will be expanded to unowned cats, but not to low-cost sterilization of pets.

—Emil Kuzmanov, founder
 Animal Programs Bulgaria Foundation
 18 Yanko Sofiiski Voivoda Str
 1164 Sofia, Bulgaria
 Phone: +35928655623
 <animalprograms@abv.bg>



Toll for Eight Belles

What a horror show the 134th Kentucky Derby was. There, just a short walk from the drunken shouts of joy, back-slapping, and congratulatory hugs within the winner's circle, lay the valiant filly Eight Belles, downed by two front ankle breaks. She required immediate euthanasia.

Races and steeplechases involving these beautiful animals, who are nervous in nature and physically fragile despite their great size, are barbaric. Because these events are embraced by the upper classes and the wealthy, no one speaks against them. I hope you will speak out on this subject as you do on all meaningful animal issues.

—Mary Mansour
 Retired Humane Officer
 Fairhope, Alabama



Results from Kobe

The Animal Rescue System Fund opened our clinic here in Kobe, Japan at the end of 2006. Since then, we have sterilized 1710 cats, of whom 1,412 (82%) were ferals. Of those, 825 were returned to their habitat.

The Kobe City Pound on May 15, 2008 announced that the number of kittens killed at the shelter declined 21% in the first quarter of 2007, compared to 2006, and fell 13% for the whole fiscal year 2007, in which 2,239 kittens were killed, down 334 from 2,569 in 2006.

—Hiro Yamasaki
 Animal Rescue System Fund
 3-9-1-1F Kusugaoka-cho, Nada-ku
 Kobe 657-0024, Japan
 Phone: 078-856-3229
 <spay@animalrescue-sf.org>



“Maybe Eight Belles was lucky”

Another beautiful, talented young horse full of potential has been destroyed due to severe injuries suffered in the quest of her owners, and trainers for the glory, accolades, and financial reward of being in the winners' circle, to say nothing of the owners' expectations of very lucrative breeding opportunities. Maybe Eight Belles was lucky, as she didn't suffer as long as Barbaro.

Sport of Kings? I think not, unless you consider that princely sums given by the insurance com-

panies to the owners of the “also rans” whose horses are found mysteriously dead in their stalls or victims of an “accidental” barn fire.

Then there was the Derby winner of a few years back who ended his career in the slaughterhouse. I would appreciate your thoughts on this issue, and anything you can do to help bring attention to the abuse of horses and the pile of manure that is the reality of racing.

—Judy Youngman
 Larkspur, Calif.



Farm Animals Anti-Cruelty Act

On June 5, 2008, U.S. Representatives Christopher Shays (R-CT) and Jim Moran (D-VA) introduced the *Farm Animals Anti-Cruelty Act*. This bill makes it a federal offense to without justification, kill, mutilate, disfigure, torture, or intentionally inflict pain or suffering upon an animal raised for food or to fail to provide food, water and shelter. We believe this bill could help in the states that exempt farm animals from coverage under their anti-cruelty statutes. Even in states that do not exempt farm animals, a federal prosecutor may be more likely to prosecute a case than a local prosecutor in a rural area.

Although acts in compliance with the Humane Slaughter Act cannot be prosecuted under this bill, we believe that violations of the Humane Slaughter Act such as excessive prodding, ineffective stunning, and skinning, dismemberment, and scalding while conscious, would be violations if they are without justification and intentional.

The Congressional Friends of Animals Caucus (co-chaired by Shays) will hold a hearing on this bill, probably in July.

—Jerry Simonelli
 Centreville, Virginia
 <jsimonelli@aol.com>
 Phone: 703-818-2500



WSPA funded the Wildlife SOS bear sanctuary

I thought your article “Tracking bear rescue & rehabilitation in India” in the April 2008 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** was fair. Parts of the story remain a muddle and probably will never be fully resolved to your and my satisfaction. I still remain suspicious that there is some dirty work at the crossroads involved.

You reported that, “WSPA eventually provided about half of the initial cost of building the first Wildlife SOS bear sanctuary, near Agra, but was no longer part of the project by the time it opened in December 2002. Most of the rest of the Agra sanctuary construction and start-up funding came from the Australian charity Free the Bears, One Voice of France, and International Animal Rescue of Britain, all still project partners.”

WSPA actually funded the whole of the Agra construction to enable it to open and to start taking in bears, at a cost of around \$250,000. The other groups you list funded additional work and extension work later on

after WSPA had handed over the sanctuary to WSOS at the end of 2002. WSPA had a written agreement with WSOS and the Indian authorities for the handover to WSOS in 2002.

Also Libearty was never “suspended.” After the Agra construction was completed we went straight on to finishing our WSPA Pakistan sanctuary and work on our bear farm campaign. However, latterly we have ceased to use the title “Libearty” and do all our bear work under the generic WSPA title.

—Peter Davies
 Director general
 World Society for the
 Protection of Animals
 89 Albert Embankment
 London, SE1 7TP
 United Kingdom
 Phone: +44-20-7587-5000
 Fax: +44-20-7793-0208
 <wsipa@wsipa.org.uk>
 <www.wsipa.org.uk>



Steer tailing & horse tripping banned in Nebraska

Thanks for your May 2008 update on the Nebraska and Arizona legislation to ban horse tripping, “New legislation addresses violent entertainment.”

Not mentioned was that the recently-signed Nebraska bill also bans the *charrea* - *da's* brutal steer tailing event, called *las colas*. Nebraska is the first state to ban both horse tripping and steer tailing, though two California counties banned both in the early 1990's. We hope other states will follow Nebraska's lead, using their language, and we will send copies of the language upon request.

In steer tailing, a mounted cowboy or *charro* grabs a running steer by the tail, wraps the tail around

his boot and stirrup, then drags or slams the animal to the ground. Tails and horns may be broken, and horses sometimes break their legs when the steer runs the wrong way. Steer tailing is not sanctioned by any American-style rodeo association, nor is it standard ranching practice anywhere in the U.S.

I am hoping to sponsor California legislation next year to ban this cruelty, and am currently seeking statements from veterinarians and others in support of this effort. Any help would be appreciated.

—Eric Mills, coordinator
 Action for Animals
 P.O. Box 20184
 Oakland, CA 94620
 Phone: 510/652-5603
 <afa@mcn.org>



“The seal hunt must be recognized as a political issue”

Your May 2008 analysis of why the Canadian seal hunt endures despite of decades of activism was exactly right. The seal hunt must be recognized as a political issue; a winning strategy must be based on electoral politics. Otherwise, an end to the clubbing will remain fantasy. It will end *only* when Canadian opponents organize politically and strategically, to win seats in the Canadian parliament. This surely is achievable.

Thank you so much for quoting from and recommending that anti-seal hunt activists read my book, *Get Political for Animals and Win the Laws They Need*, subtitled *Why and how to launch a voting bloc in your town, city, county or state—and the simple steps it takes to do it*. Animal advocates are the

only issue group that tries to influence laws and government policy chiefly through charitable groups and concerned citizens. All other issue groups act through political groups that endorse candidates. A small political group can drive law and policy on its issue—even when its values and goals conflict with those of the larger community.

To win strong laws and their enforcement, a strategy based on merits or publicity fails. Merits are low on the list of factors that determine the fate of strong laws. This explains why after more than 50 years of powerful national media exposes, puppy mills are as bad as ever and sales of puppy mill dogs have not shrunk. It explains countless other avoidable failures to win laws that animals desperately need at

every level of government. The animals pay for our mistakes.

—Julie Lewin, President
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Model Downed Animal Bill Approved by California Assembly Support Needed to Secure Governor Schwarzenegger's Signature



We are extremely pleased to report that the Downed Animal Protection Act (AB 2098) by Assemblyman Krekorian has just been overwhelmingly approved by the California State Assembly!

As graphically documented in recent undercover video taken at the Hallmark meat packing plant, critically ill and injured farm animals continue to be beaten, shocked with electric prods, and dragged into slaughterhouses throughout the nation. Rather than putting downed animals out of their misery, the meat industry routinely keeps these suffering animals alive in order to get them into a slaughterhouse where they are sold for human consumption.

This Time: A Real Downed Animal Protection Act

As you know, HFA has steadfastly held that the sale of downed animals must be banned outright – rather than perpetuated by worthless regulations. And while others caved in to industry lobbyists, and then falsely claimed that they had stopped the marketing of downed animals, HFA's efforts have once again been validated by the test of time.

As a result of the scandal surrounding the Hallmark meat packing plant (which resulted in the largest beef recall in U.S. history), we are now poised to pass legislation that will – for the first time ever – outlaw the transport, sale, and slaughter of downed animals.



As noted in this political cartoon several years ago, California's corrupt downed animal law perpetuates the exploitation and abuse of disabled animals. AB 2098 will repeal those provisions – and will enact real protections for farm animals.

**"Under California's
existing
downed animal law,
our hands are tied."**

*– San Bernardino Prosecutor
Michael Ramos testifies
as to why no charges were
filed against Hallmark
slaughterhouse for
marketing downed animals.*

This legislation will allow prosecutors to file criminal charges against any slaughterhouse that butchers downed animals for human consumption.

In addition to banning the marketing of downed cows, HFA's legislation will also prohibit the marketing of other diseased and disabled farm animals, including pigs, sheep, and goats.

We urgently need your help right now to make sure this vitally important anti-cruelty measure is signed into law.

ACTION REQUESTED: Please Contact California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Time is of the essence. Now that we have successfully passed California's Assembly, AB 2098 is facing a crucial vote in the State Senate within a matter of days. With your support, we are optimistic that AB 2098 can pass the Senate. Then it's on to the Governor's desk where it will need his approval if it is to become law.

Arnold Schwarzenegger is now in his final term as governor. And he is keenly interested in continuing in politics on a national stage. It is important that he recognize that people all across the nation are closely following this issue and urging his support.

Please immediately contact Governor Schwarzenegger to strongly urge him to sign AB 2098 into law. Your communication need not be lengthy. Point out that the flesh from downed animals poses a significant threat to public health. And farm animals so diseased or injured that they cannot stand or walk should not have their suffering prolonged for the sake of profit.

Write to Governor Schwarzenegger in care of State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814; Phone: (916) 445-2841; Fax: (916) 558-3160; or email: www.gov.ca.gov/Interact.

Thank you for standing up for downed animals.

Balancing fundraising needs with program work in the developing world

Last year after forwarding our annual accounts to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** for inclusion in your annual *Watchdog Report on Animal Charities*, I received a stinging e-mail from editor Merritt Clifton pointing out that if we wished to survive we simply had to invest more money in fundraising and marketing. He pointed out that successful charities usually reinvest between 20% and 30% of their income on such activities.

Whilst accepting the validity of this statement, I pointed out that as a small foundation working in the third world, we like many others depend almost entirely on a few volunteers to do the work, and with increasing demands on our resources, every cent we raise goes directly to assisting the animals we help. Working in a poor community, we are almost entirely reliant on overseas donors. Although there are many wealthy expatriates living in our region, most are interested only in making money, not in helping animals.

We would love to employ a high-powered marketing manager on a six-figure salary, but unfortunately if he did not deliver, that would be the end of the foundation.

Clifton pointed out that most major donors would never consider donating to charities that operate in such a fashion. My question is why not?

Every organization must start somewhere. In our case it was three concerned individuals who under five years ago decided, with no funding and at their own expense, to try to do something about the suffering street dogs and cats in Phuket, Thailand.

Today, having spent virtually nothing on advertising and fundraising, but through the sheer hard work of a few committed people, one of whom was recently named an Asian of the Year, often working seven days per week and 14 hours per day, we have now sterilized over 18,000 dogs and cats on Phuket alone, producing a reduction in the street animal numbers here.

We employ two full-time vets, run one of the best animal shelters and hospitals in Southeast Asia, have an education program where local children are taught how to care for animals and the importance of sterilization, and are now expanding our clinics into other areas of southern Thailand, where previously dogs in particular were simply culled through

poisoning and drowning.

Yes we still operate on a hand to mouth basis, but we are recently getting support from individuals who have told us they have lost faith with large societies. One told me that the organization she helped had refused to send promotional material because the trash-and-treasure market where she planned to raise funds was not in keeping with their image!

Getting any financial assistance from the big boys is virtually impossible. Most don't even reply to requests for assistance. What I find hard to accept is that whilst they will not give financial assistance to our education program, because it does not fit their criteria, and insist on expenses being covered before sending someone to provide training, we often receive invitations to attend conferences in exotic locations at expensive prices.

Sorry, but I do not feel our donors would be happy about us spending thousands of dollars on flights and accommodation to attend a conference at the expense of helping the animals here.

I can hear people now saying "Yes, but that is how you network and maybe get donations." Sorry; I am not prepared to gamble the lives of what would be the equivalent of hundreds of dogs on the chance somebody may donate some money at one of these events. My conscience would not allow it.

Our ambition is to expand throughout Thailand and I accept that this is unlikely to happen unless some wealthy individuals donate enough for us to be able to appoint skilled marketing people. But at least I can sleep at night knowing that the old lady in the U.K. who sends us a ten-pound check every year from her Christmas pension bonus need have no fear that her money is not actually going to help an animal, and instead paying for a fancy hotel room on an expense-paid visit to the other side of the world, that often results in little or no action.

—John Dalley

Soi Dog Foundation
c/o 57/61 Laguna Golf Villas
Moo 4, Srisoonthorn Road,
Choengthale,
Phuket 83110, Thailand
<dalleyj@loxinfo.co.th>
<www.soidogfoundation.org>



Raising funds in hard times

Raising money during crises is an area that I have had a particular interest in since college—not just the impact of the economy on donations, but also the effects of war, natural disasters, terrorism and even positive "good feeling" events such as, for example, the 1969 first human landing on the moon.

Today animal charities are asking, "What impact will the recession in the United States have on donations?" There is a prevailing fear that the effects will be considerable. However, this fear is not well grounded. While recessions have a definite impact, historically charitable giving, overall, has not declined during recessions.

Different sectors of donors and potential donors react differently, and different types of charities are affected differently.

For example, literally nothing dampens giving to religious causes. Planned gifts are largely unaffected by such events, regardless of the type of charity the gifts are directed toward, because decisions to make such gifts are usually made long before a crisis occurs. Foundation support has actually quite dramatically increased during poor economic times. Corporate giving tends to even out, because giving is tied to profitability, but is usually not cut back.

Small donors do hold back—but can be effectively persuaded with the argument that "the animals need our help just as much, perhaps even more, in difficult times as in good times." New small donors are more difficult to acquire but this does not mean one should not continue prospecting to counterbalance natural file attrition—it simply means that one should be more vigilant about costs,

by mailing reduced quantities, testing less, or simplifying packages. Large donors, usually the very wealthy, are not significantly affected. Changes in tax laws have a far, far greater impact on these donors.

More than 80% of all charitable giving in the US is by *individuals*. Following on this fact, let me quote from one of the more recent studies: "Since 1968 and measured in constant dollars, giving has declined in some recession years but increased in others. The biggest declines tracked the 1973-75 recession, but giving actually rose in the 1980-82 recession and in the first year of the 1969-70 recession. Further, *individual giving has increased every year in real terms, irrespective of economic times*, except in 1987 when dampened by a combination of a stock market collapse and tax changes."

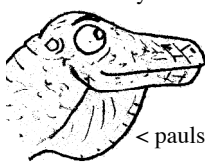
The bottom line is we should not be oblivious to the current economic situation but we should not be overly concerned either. We should just plan accordingly and understand the historical realities.

The concerns many people have, including me, are real, at least in terms of personal finance. But frankly, and this has often caused me to ponder, many non-profits seem to spend more time dwelling on "reasons" why they don't think they can raise money than fashioning ways to overcome the perceived obstacles to raising money: "Everyone's giving to the Hurricane Katrina Fund...everyone's giving to help tsunami survivors...all the money is being sucked up by the presidential candidates...the event won't work because so and so is holding their event that week too...people won't give right now because they are worried about the war in Iraq, paying their mortgage and the rising costs of food and gasoline..."

The *main* reason people don't give is because they aren't asked to give.

—Paul Seigel

Direct Mail Systems
12450 Automobile Blvd.,
Clearwater, FL 33762
<pauls@direct-mail-systems.com>
<www.dmsmails.com/>



CORRECTION

The May 2008 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** article "Hunters hit foreclosed pets" quoted a passage by Shandra Martinez of the Grand Rapids Press which misidentified Richard Cabela as chief executive officer of the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance. Cabela is actually the board president. The chief executive officer is Bud Pigeon.

Merritt Clifton replies:

Most charities in every nation and every field "depend almost entirely on a few volunteers to do the work." This does not exempt them from the need to dedicate 20% to 30% of their budget—both in time and money—to raising the resources necessary to continuing their mission. The need to raise funds to sustain a charity is as much a reality as the need of an animal to find food. The affluence of the location or abundance of the habitat is a factor in survival, but so are resourcefulness and adaptability.

Proudly proclaiming that "every cent we raise goes directly to assisting the animals we help" is like proudly proclaiming that one eats every scrap from one's field, without either saving any seeds or selling enough produce to buy seeds. Parables and admonitions about the necessity of reinvestment are incorporated into the teachings about charity in every major religious tradition, for example the story Jesus told about the rich man who gave each of his servants a sum to invest, and religion is the oldest and still largest branch of charity, often thriving in even the poorest communities.

Every church or temple—and Phuket is famous for temples—is a monument to successful fundraising. Fundraising for animal charities is much like raising funds for religion, especially in that the major motivations for giving include seeking peace of mind and benefits to self-image, with the reward often envisioned but unseen.

As in religious fundraising, one may build on local myth and tradition, or on current events, but either way, success depends on convincing people that donating will making them feel better about themselves and the future, whether the goal is going to heaven, escaping hell, or simply walking down the street without seeing hungry animals suffering from untreated injuries and mange.

The problem of potential donors being "interested only in making money, not in helping animals" is just a matter of developing stronger persuasive ability. Globally, being seen as animal-friendly is a money-making strategy, visible in television advertising in almost every nation, even where there are

few functional humane societies and is little charitable tradition. Many highly materialistic and self-interested people are major animal protection donors, along with many of the most altruistic, because someone has convinced them that becoming known as a donor is to their advantage.

This does not take a "high powered marketing manager on a six figure salary." Indeed, the most successful fundraisers I know are dogs, some of whom successfully work people for handouts who never give a thing to anyone else—and some of those dog are among the ugliest mutts in creation, who have nonetheless mastered winning ways.

My standard conference address about fundraising is titled, "Learn from your dog," because the average dog is born knowing more about fundraising than most fundraisers will ever learn. Dogs will eagerly teach what they know, if one only pays attention. They will approach anyone, at least for a sniff, and are rarely deterred by refusal.

Major donors of either the self-interested or highly altruistic sort will usually expect a charity to practice effective reinvestment in fundraising because major donors are people who have earned lots of money, and earning lots of money requires appropriate investment in promotion.

"Consider the lilies of the field; they toil not, neither do they spin, yet even Solomon on his throne was never arrayed in their splendor," because flowering plants evolved as a demonstration of the importance of successful advertising.

Concerning conferences, the animal charities in the developing world which have experienced the most rapid growth in recent years, building the most successful programs, are almost without exception those whose founders attend at least one major conference per year. Few actually obtain donations or grants at such events. What they do is learn tactics and techniques, make contacts, and give potential sources of assistance a sense of who they are. This becomes the basis for developing the confidence in a mission or program to later win funding, material aid, publicity, and useful introductions, which are often the most useful help of all.



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Pit bull terriers, their people, & risk-taking behavior

Thank you for your outstanding breed-specific documentation of fatal dog attacks and maimings.

There are far too many pit bulls where I live, in Humboldt County, California, and I have found they are the dogs most likely to be loose. For some reason, pit bull owners seem to think it is their God-given right to let their dogs run free. And not only here! On a recent cross-country road trip, we stopped at two motels that allowed pets. Lots of people kept tiny dogs on leashes—and at two different motels a pit bull was loose, standing outside our door so that I couldn't go to my car.

It is unlikely that anything will change here because of the marijuana industry. Growers keep pit bulls to guard their crops, and nobody is going to stop them.

In any case, I'm sick to death of pit bull owners yapping about how "it's the people, not the dog," and now you have given me the satisfaction of knowing I'm right. (Fat lot of good that does if we get eaten.)

A dear friend of ours is keeping her adult son's pit bull for a few months. The dog plays with her 12-year-old daughter. When we visited, we wouldn't let our either our 12-year-old daughter or our 12-year-old grandson go outside unless the dog was locked up. Our friend was very nice about it. No problem—until we were in the kitchen and my 83-year-old mother, who had been patting the dog throughout the day, put out her hand to pat him, and he bit it. No blood, but his ears went back, he snarled viciously, lunged, and grabbed her hand.

My friend reacted instantly and stopped him—but my mother is skinny and frail. What would have happened if she had been alone in the room?

My friend was mortified and apologized a thousand times and afterward kept the dog locked up—but she kept saying, "He's never done anything like that before," and her 12-year-old continues to play with him.

I want her to understand that this was a warning.



—Lesley Fountain
Fortuna,
California

Editor's note:

The **ANIMAL PEOPLE** breed-specific log of fatal dog attacks and maimings, begun in 1982, predates by about three years the earliest public controversy about keeping pit bulls as pets. It records attacks of approximately the 1-in-10,000 level of severity, and only by dogs kept as pets. Pit bulls have accounted for close to half of the total number of qualifying attacks for 26 consecutive years.

Any dog can have a bad moment, as in the kitchen incident described above. Pit bulls rate in the normal range for bite frequency, and may be much less likely to have bad moments than several other popular breeds. Unfortunately, extreme consequences are abnormally frequent if either pit bulls or their people make a mistake—and often pit bulls are kept by people who tend toward risk-taking.

The pit bull problem can be compared to riding motorcycles. Most motorcyclists ride safely, but if a motorcycle is involved in an accident, the likelihood that the rider will be killed or severely injured is extremely high. Therefore, risk-takers rather than risk-averse people are most likely to ride motorcycles.

Society long ago accepted that the greater risk of riding motorcycles requires regulating them more stringently than cars.

However, while the victims of motorcycle accidents are most often the riders, the victims of dog attacks are most often children, followed by the elderly; and while

Hot car warning

The temperature inside our Helen Woodward Animal Center van hit 139 degrees this afternoon during our 6th annual Summer Heat Danger demonstration in our "barking lot" on May 20, 2008.

When I stepped into the van at 2:15 p.m. the air temperature was 86 degrees Fahrenheit. Within the first minute after closing the doors and windows it rose to 89 degrees. By 2:22 the temperature was 100. At 2:26, just 11 minutes after I got in and closed the doors and windows, the temperature reached 110 degrees.

This was when I became in danger of heat stroke and got out. I closed the door behind me and we continued to monitor as the temperature inside the van rose even more. Just four minutes later, at 2:30, the thermometer sitting on the dashboard hit 119. At 2:49 the reading was 132 degrees. At 2:55, 40 minutes after the demonstration began, the temperature inside the van was 139 degrees.

A chocolate candy bar I had left on the dashboard was melted, and the flowers beside the candy had wilted.

Thank you for telling this story. Someone will pay attention and decide *not* to leave their dog or children in the car while they run into a store "for just a minute" to get a carton of milk and a loaf of bread. That small decision will save lives.

—John Van Zante
Public Relations Manager
Helen Woodward Animal Center
P.O. Box 64
Rancho Santa Fe CA 92067
858-756-4117 x335
<JohnV@animalcenter.org>
<www.animalcenter.org>

motorcycles are not overproduced by the million, only to be scrapped at an average age of about 18 months, pit bulls—5% of the U.S. dog population—account for 25% of animal shelter admissions, and 40% or more of the dogs killed in shelters, either after flunking temperament tests or simply because there are not enough homes for big dogs.

Why is merchandise included in appeal mailings?

I like what Humane Society of the U.S. president Wayne Pacelle writes, but now HSUS is doing something I consider dreadful: sending gifts and expecting money back.

This just came yesterday: Two 2008 "Members Only" his and hers watches for support of their 2008 Anti-Cruelty campaign. Suggested blanks: \$150, \$225, \$300 and Other. I feel like checking "other" for two cents and telling them how unappealing this kind of appeal is.

I do UNICEF fundraising at Halloween. When UNICEF began mailing nickels in appeals, I complained to a friend working there, and she said that oddly enough these are among their most successful types of appeal.

So I could be all wrong, but I feel like writing to Wayne Pacelle and telling him I'm going to deduct money from my annual contribution. They have a good message without these black digital watches.

—Ruth Heller
San Rafael, California

Editor's note:

The new U.S. Postal Service rate structure introduced in May 2008 may discourage the inclusion of unwanted "gift" merchandise in appeals.

Such appeals are reputedly highly profitable if the merchandise is donated or is purchased very cheaply, but are believed to bring diminishing returns as the cost of the merchandise and mailing rise.

The nature of the merchandise mailed also makes a difference. Calendars remind people to donate. Calculators help them do it. T-shirts help to promote the image and name recognition value of the charity. So do coffee mugs. Some other items that have been tried as premiums don't work as well.

Supplying merchandise for inclusion in appeals has several times been involved in alleged kickback schemes involving charities. In view that mailing merchandise tends to raise donors' suspicion that their money is being misused, charities would do well to clearly identify the cost of the items they send, and the cost/income ratios they obtained on similar mailings in the past.

Many fundraisers regard such information as a trade secret, but in view of the potential for abuse of donor trust inherent in fundraising for charity, this is a field where the only legitimate trade secret should be the names and addresses of individual donors who wish for their privacy to be respected.

SHELTER RESOURCES

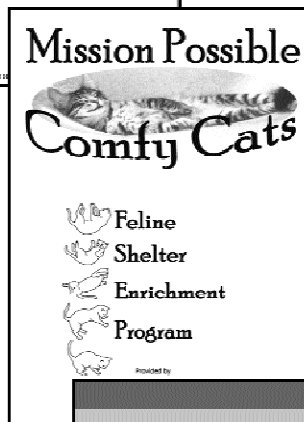
MORE Great Tools to Help You Put Your Best Paw Forward



KEYS TO A GREAT SHELTER

If you are thinking of starting your own humane organization or want to improve an existing shelter, this guide will help you every step of the way. Keys to a Great Shelter was developed by the ASPCA's National Outreach department after years of visiting animal shelters, speaking with the directors and the staff and distilling their experience into a detailed, how-to guide.

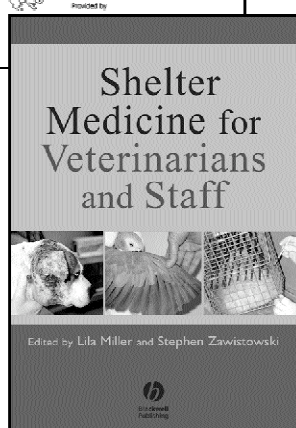
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Texas horse slaughter ban applies to hauling too, says A.G.

AUSTIN—Texas attorney general Greg Abbott during the first week of May 2008 issued a legal opinion that the state law against slaughtering horses for human consumption also prohibits transporting horsemeat from Mexican slaughterhouses to Texas ports for foreign consumers.

“State representative Warren Chisum (R-Pampa), who supports horse slaughter, said he requested the attorney general’s opinion after being approached last year by an attorney for a slaughterhouse in Mexico,” reported Lisa Sandberg of the San Antonio *Express-News*.

“Mexico kills horses, whether we like it or not, and people in France eat them. And sometimes

the slaughterhouses like to ship the meat out of Corpus Christi or Houston,” Chisum told Sandberg.

Abbott’s opinion gained more notice after a truckload of horsemeat spilled in Grand Junction, Colorado on May 25, blocking I-70 for ten hours—but that load was en route to California to be made into dog food, reported KJCT news.

Exports of U.S. horses to slaughter in Canada and Mexico have risen since the last U.S. slaughterhouses were closed in mid-2007. The traffic has attracted increasing media attention, including a June 10, 2008 CBC National television broadcast entitled *No Country for Horses*.

U.S. opponents of horse slaughter hope the exposure will build momentum toward the passage of a federal bill entitled the Horse Slaughter Prevention Act, introduced as HR 503 in the House of Representatives and S 311 in the Senate. The bill, running out of time for passage by the 110th Congress, would ban interstate commerce and exports of horses for slaughter.

The horse industry responds that the abuses associated with export can only be abolished by reopening the U.S. horse slaughterhouses. A resolution to that effect was introduced at the April 2008 National Conference of State Legislatures in Washington, D.C., but was defeated.

Victories over Portuguese-style bullfighting

LISBON—A Lisbon court on May 30, 2008 granted the Portuguese organization ANIMAL an injunction prohibiting the state-owned television station RTP from broadcasting bullfights “before 10.30 p.m. and without displaying a sign indentifying the program as violent and capable of negatively influencing the personality development of children and teenagers,” e-mailed ANIMAL president Miguel Moutinho.

Presenting as witnesses two clinical psychologists, a biologist, and a university professor of ethology, ANIMAL convinced the court that bullfighting broadcasts in prime time violate Portuguese law governing what may be aired when young people are likely to be watching.

“Bullfighting no longer finds social acceptance in Portugal,” contends Moutinho. “People mostly feel disgusted with bullfights. They represent the worst of the relationship between humans and other animals.”

Seeking a national ban on bullfighting, Moutinho and ANIMAL have this year persuaded multinational advertisers including Marriott Hotels, Kodak, and Ben & Jerry’s to direct

their Portuguese affiliates to refrain from bullfighting-related promotions. Several Portuguese firms have also withdrawn their support of bullfights.

The successes in Portugal coincide with the cancellation of Portuguese-style “bloodless” bullfights formerly held as part of the Irmandade Portuguesa da Festa do Espirito Santo, a celebration of Portuguese identity held each May in Tracy, California, since 1926. The bullfights were added to the event about 20 years ago, and have not been held every year.

“At last year’s festa, police and animal rights observers saw blood trickling from a bull’s eye and from his shoulder blades,” wrote Jennifer Wadsworth of the *Tracy Press*. “From underneath a patch of supposedly protective Velcro, blood streamed down the animal’s shoulder. Another bull bled from an injury on his back. The bulls’ owner, Joe Martin, was charged with animal cruelty. Prods used in the fights are allowed only if blunted. Those used on at least two of Martin’s bulls had metal barbs.”

Festa organizer Dena Silveira insisted that bullfights were not held in 2008 only for reasons of expense.

MORE LETTERS

Brick-hauling donkeys in Nepal

We at Kathmandu Animal Treatment recently rescued two injured donkeys who were dumped on the far side of the city, and lay along one of Kathmandu’s busiest roads for five days. Kind people tried to help them by giving them grass and covering them with plastic to protect them from heavy rain.

Unfortunately, one donkey succumbed. We worked far into the night to recover the other donkey, who had not only a broken leg and many huge open sores, but also multiple untreated old injuries to her other legs.

Israeli veterinarian Asi Dar, who had just arrived to volunteer for KAT, and Kiran Panday, our local vet, agreed that the donkey had also suffered from starvation. Dr Ishwor Pradhan, a leading bone specialist, very generously came on his weekend to give his opinion. She will recover and walk again, he said, but will always be a cripple.

Sources from charities working with laborers in the brick factories on the south side of Kathmandu have informed us that approximately 1,000 donkeys have arrived in the past year, and their numbers are

growing rapidly. They work under horrendous conditions, and as the brick factories destroy the nearby vegetation, they are starved until they drop.

—Jan Salter

Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre
Chapali Gaon
Budanilkantha
GPO Box 8975
EPC 4120
Kathmandu, Nepal
Phone: 977-1-4373169
<jsalter@mail.com.np>
<www.katcentre.org.np>

Editor’s note:

Abuse of donkeys by the brick industry is unfortunately ubiquitous. ANIMAL PEOPLE in 2007 visited a hospital for brick industry donkeys operated in Ahmedabad, India by The Donkey Sanctuary of Great Britain, and—after ANIMAL PEOPLE president and administrator Kim Bartlett arranged the rescue of a badly injured donkey who had been abandoned near Agra, funded the acquisition of a mobile equine clinic operated in the vicinity of brick factories between Agra and Delhi by the Delhi-based Friendicoes Society for the Eradication of Cruelty.

Elephants vs. Indian Railways

Thanks for your revealing as well as informative May 2008 article “New AVMA elephant standards may help the working elephants of India.”

Are you aware that an elephant with a lantern hooked on her trunk is the official symbol for Indian Railways and yet, the most elephant deaths occur in India due to speeding trains, as the hapless beasts get run over? A comprehensive report on this would be highly welcome.

—Raja Chatterjee
Secretary
The Junglees
Kolkata, India

Editor’s note:

At least 20 elephants have been killed by speeding trains since 1996 in Rajaji National Park, in Uttaranchal. Ten elephants have been killed since 2005 in the Dooars region of North Bengal. At least eight elephants have been killed since 2006 near the Deepor Beel bird sanctuary on the outskirts of Guwahati, Assam. ANIMAL PEOPLE has also received reports within the past three years of trains killing elephants in Orissa, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka states.

The West Bengal chapter of World Wildlife Fund/India recently reported that more than a third of the major elephant migration paths in North Bengal cross railways, and noted that a third of elephant/train collisions occur at dawn, 42% in the evening, and 17% at night. Only 8% occur in

broad daylight.

The West Bengal forest department has identified 16 points at which elephants are especially likely to be hit.

Indian Railways has been reluctant, however, to slow down or re-route heavily used trains to avoid elephant corridors.

The Indian ministry for forests and the environment in February 2008 named a committee to study the matter.

The problem is similar to the problem of trains hitting bears and moose in the northern Rocky Mountains, western Canada, and Alaska. Providing safe crossing places helps little, as the animals tend to use the cleared and elevated railways themselves as quick, easy ways through difficult habitat.

Fencing railways well enough to deter animals the size of bears, moose, and elephants would be an engineering feat comparable in cost and effort to building the \$1.2 billion barrier to illegal immigration now under construction along 700 miles of the U.S./Mexico border. The George W. Bush administration in April 2008 waived more than 30 U.S. environmental laws, many of them having to do with wildlife migration, to enable the border fence to proceed. At that, environmental mitigation, mostly on behalf of wildlife, is expected to cost \$50 million—and all of this is in a region where there are no wild animals capable of knocking down almost any fence less sturdy than a tank trap.

Ecological issues to stress in promoting meatless diet

Kudos on your comprehensive May 2008 front page article “Meat-eating drives global grain crunch.” I think it is essential that the vegetarian movement make a major goal of educating the public about that message and the many other ways that animal-based diets and agriculture endanger the planet.

Among the issues to stress:

- While the world is increasingly threatened by global warming, animal-based agriculture emits more greenhouse gases (in CO2 equivalents) than all means of transportation worldwide combined (18% vs. 13.5%);

- Animal-based diets require up to 14 times as much water and 10 times as much energy as vegan diets;
- Production of meat contributes significantly to species loss, destruction of tropical rain forests, loss of coral reefs, and the erosion and depletion of soil;

- Making the situation more serious, consumption of animal products is projected to double in 50 years. If this happens, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to reduce greenhouse emissions enough to avoid very severe effects from global climate change.

In summary, it is essential

that we increase awareness that a major shift toward plant-based diets is essential to avoid unprecedented catastrophe and to move our precious but imperiled planet to a sustainable path.

—Richard H. Schwartz, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
College of Staten Island;
President
Jewish Vegetarians
of North America
and Society of Ethical &
Religious Vegetarians
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Life's Better



Rescuers rock & respond in earthquake-stricken Sichuan (from page 1)

Foundation headquarters in Hong Kong, cancelled scheduled fundraising appearances in the U.S., and headed to Chengdu to lead the Animals Asia Foundation relief mission.

China Bear Rescue Centre senior veterinarian Heather Bacon reported that night that the buildings at the site were still shaking. One older building used for office space and a staff dormitory “shook a lot and is dodgy. There are cracks in the ceiling, ground moving and building swaying, tiles missing off roofs, and concrete has fallen down a big hole in the roof of the bear kitchen,” Bacon sai.

The first bears rescued from bile farms by the Animals Asia Foundation seemed to be the least troubled by the ongoing temblors. “Jasper and team lay out sunbathing as if nothing had happened,” Bacon told Robinson. “All the other bears bolted back into their dens, panicking and jostling to get back through their den doors.”

Bacon relocated the staff housing to

the rescue center hospitals.

“Four of our main buildings, including our big office and accommodation blocks, are so badly damaged that they will need to be completely rebuilt,” Robinson knew by June 4. “A fifth building needs repairs.”

The Animals Asia Foundation had been busy in the interim, initially assisting the human rescue effort. The Chengdu staff collected donations among themselves to help the victims, then mobilized to help carry medical supplies to hard-hit villages. The veterinary team deployed to help treat injured humans.

“We have considered offering humane help for the dogs, but I honestly sense this isn’t the time. We would lose much goodwill by suggesting this when so many people are losing their lives,” Robinson told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on May 20. “We’ll keep our ears to the ground for any opportunity.”

Yet Animals Asia Foundation rescuers had already been asked to help animals

by other first responders, as Robinson recounted in a blog about the relief effort. On May 17, for example, two Animals Asia Foundation workers leashed a lost and frightened dog. “Failing to find anyone who knew the dog, they led the dog down a steep rubble-strewn mountain for transport to the China Bear Rescue Centre. As they were departing,” Robinson wrote, “a Red Cross employee came running over dangling a six-week-old puppy from his fingers and thrust him into our arms.”

Even as Robinson blogged, municipal workers in the stricken city of Dujiangyan put up posters advising citizens that dogs seen wandering amid the rubble would be killed. The posters cited scarcities of food and water, the lack of sanitation, recent rabies outbreaks in parts of Sichuan, and the chance that starving dogs might scavenge human remains—although livestock remains were far more abundant and accessible.

“A large-scale dog cull is in the mak-

ing in the quake-stricken area of Qingchuan county,” warned *South China Morning Post* correspondent Al Guo on May 21, from the scene. “Police have been instructed to kill dogs they encounter,” Guo wrote, “irrespective of whether they are with their owners.”

“The order said we should kill dogs while keeping an eye on local security,” police officer He Yusheng told Guo.

The order did not appear to be enthusiastically received. “Officer He said he had not killed any dogs so far because he had not seen any,” Guo continued. “The bodies of dogs and other pets like cats and rabbits litter the remains of buildings. Some dogs are heard desperately barking inside locked buildings, abandoned by owners who ran for their lives.”

“A People’s Liberation Army officer at the Qingchuan disaster relief headquarters said he had heard about a dog-killing case in a nearby town,” Guo continued, “but it was

(continued on page 10)

Events

June 28: 1st 2008 Farm Sanctuary Twilight Tour, Orlands, Calif. Info: 607-583-2225, x221.

July 9-11: Intl. Symposium on Canine & Feline Repro., Vienna, Austria. Info: <joyce@acc-d.org>.

July 13: Walk For Country Critters, Animal Acres, Acton, Calif. Info: 661-269-5404; <info@animalacres.org>; <www.animalacres.org>.

July 27-August 3: World Veg. Congress, Dresden. Info: <www.ivu.org/congress/2008/index.html>.

August 14-18: Animal Rights 2008 conf., Alexandria, Va. Info: <1-888-FARM-USA>; <www.arconference.org>.

August 27-29: Asia for Animals 2008, Bali, Indonesia. Information: <www.asiaforanimals.org>.

Sept. 3: Japan Dolphin Day embassy/consulate protests. Info: <www.Save-JapanDolphin.org>.

Sept. 10-13: 4th Intl. Workshop on Assessment of Animal Welfare at the Farm & Group Level, Ghent, Belgium. Info: <www.wafl2008.com>.

Sept. 14: Fundraiser for Romanian Animal Rescue & Afghan Animal Rescue Lg, Pleasanton, Calif. Info: <romaniadogs@sbcglobal.net>; <www.romani-animalrescue.com>.

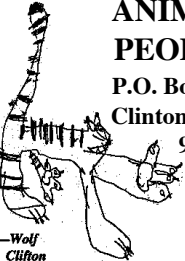
October 1-5: 2nd annual CETA-Life film festival, Kiev. Info: <cetalife@mail.ru>.

Oct. 4: World Animal Day. Info: <info@worldanimalday.org.uk>; <www.worldanimal-day.org.uk>.

(continued on page 10)

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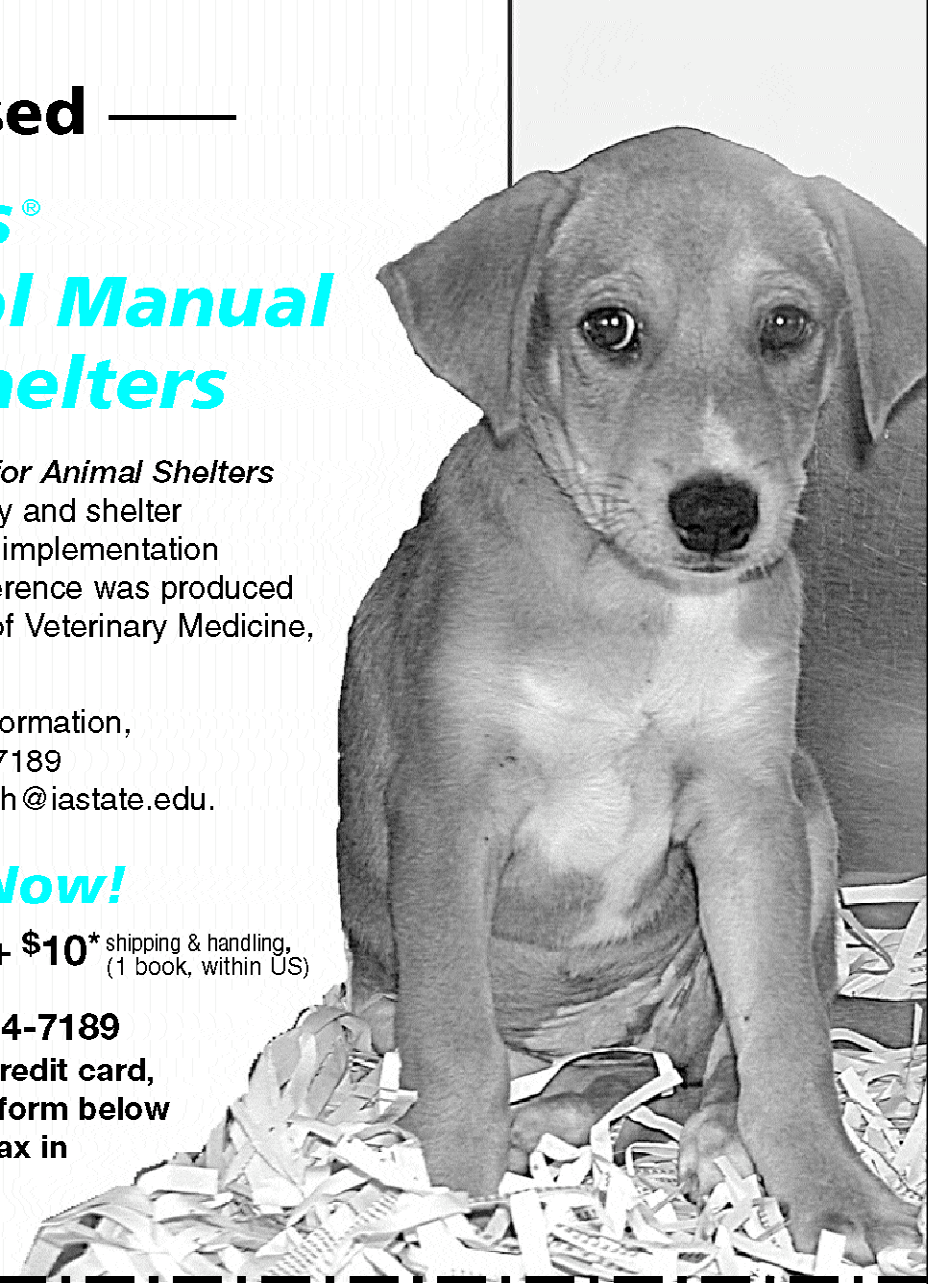
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Rescuers rock in Sichuan (from page 10)

purely because the dog was biting villagers.”

Said the army officer, “We have not heard we should assist local governments to kill dogs. Our job is saving people and helping them rebuild homes, not something as bizarre as killing dogs.”

The Animals Asia Foundation, the Hong Kong SPCA, the Beijing-based China Small Animal Protection Association, and the Beijing office of the International Fund for Animal Welfare took the order to kill dogs as their cue to intervene. Each lobbied as many authorities as it could contact, and sent personnel with material aid to the scene.

E-mailed Robinson on May 23, after Animals Asia Foundation director of China relations Christie Yang met with Qingchuan officials, “We have permission to set up a rabies station in Dujiangyang, where people and animals can have pre-and-post exposure vaccinations. This will allow us to help and feed the animals. We are putting together a rabies fact sheet in Chinese to distribute to the public. We are adding information about how dogs are useful in sniffing out survivors of an earthquake, and of course in offering comfort.”

Back in Chengdu, Robinson noted, “Qiao Wei and Qiao Na, who run the Qi Ming Pet Rescue Centre in Chengdu, have been overwhelmed with the number of dogs brought in and desperately need more food.”

Purina, the Humane Society International division of the Humane Society of the U.S., and Compassion for Animals Foundation founder Gil Michaels responded to the urgent need for dog food, just in time, as the influx of dogs was really only beginning.

Starting on May 24, the Animals Asia Foundation was authorized to place notices on government bulletin boards offering to take in homeless animals, and to foster the animals of displaced people.

“Survivors are sharing tents, often one tent for two families,” Robinson blogged, “and sadly there are many criticisms that both stray and pet dogs are responsible for noise and disease. Many officials are sympathetic to the dogs’ plight, understanding that they can benefit a community at a time like this, but sadly many prejudices remain and we must continue to tread carefully.”

Hong Kong SPCA mainland outreach coordinator Doris Yiu had made similar arrangements. The Hong Kong Veterinary Association “has committed rabies vaccine and vet assistance,” Yiu told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

Yiu noted that personnel from the Chongqing Small Animal Protection Association and a shelter called the Home of Love were also in Sichuan helping.

Eighty percent of the people living in tents who accepted help in housing their animals “indicated their wish to reclaim their pet



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after they settle down,” Yiu said. “Some refuse to part with their pets.”

“We are heartened by the eager response from the local community in saving animals,” Hong Kong SPCA relief team leader Tony Wong Tse-tong told May Chan of the *South China Morning Post*.

On May 26 the Hong Kong SPCA and Animals Asia Foundation both became aware of “a row of pet shops that had been badly affected in the quake,” Robinson recounted, where “the resident dogs were still inside. We arrived to find the shutters down,” Robinson wrote, “and heard distressed barking and crying.” Police said that the store owners had been given until 5.30 p.m. that day to remove the dogs, as neighbours were complaining about the smell.

“It was now 2:00 p.m.,” Robinson noted. “We talked with the officer about why we were there and begged for his help. He

told us that he would get back to us very soon after he located the pet shop owners. Until then, he suggested we go to a refugee camp close by to see if anyone needed help there.”

After an hour of making fostering arrangements in the refugee camp, the Animals Asia Foundation team were able to rescue the pet shop animals, and returned to Chengdu with 49 dogs, two cats and one kitten, Robinson wrote.

“Rescuing already traumatized family dogs and cats from being shot or beaten to death in the city of Dujiangyang is [still] our highest priority,” Robinson added 10 days later. “We have set up a hotline and a receiving station at a local vet clinic for earthquake victims to surrender their dogs to us for safe-keeping until they are back on their feet and can take them back. Many people, terrified that their much-loved dogs will be killed in front of them, have been hiding them in the ruins of their homes and risking their lives to go and feed them.

“We have promised those who have handed us their pets that we will make sure they are well cared for,” Robinson said. “If after six months they are still unable to take their pets back, we will continue to look after them until they can be reunited. If they decide they can’t take their pets back, we will try to rehome the animals.

“So far, we have rescued around 100 dogs and brought them to the Qi Ming Pet Rescue Centre, which can take about 100 more,” Robinson recounted. “We have also rescued some cats and a few starving dogs who have been found wandering around looking for food. We are giving each one a health check and vaccination, and will build a quarantine facility for the dogs at the shelter and provide them with food.”

By then, said Yiu, the Qi Ming Pet Rescue Centre animal population had expanded to about 1,000 dogs and cats.

IFAW, focusing efforts on the town of Zun Dao, “rushed close to \$200,000 in aid and sourced over six tons of animal food” in the early part of the rescue effort, said IFAW rescue team leader Jackson Zee in a June 2 prepared statement.

“Officials agreed to halt any dog culling in the area,” Zee added, “and are welcoming IFAW’s efforts to address public health concerns by conducting an anti-rabies vaccination and veterinary care program. There are an estimated 4,000 owned dogs and 1,000 strays in Zun Dao and surrounding villages,” Zee estimated. “Relief efforts are expected to increase in the coming days.”

An animal rescue attracting national attention came in Pengzhou on May 28, when Yiu’s Hong Kong SPCA team recovered two temple dogs who had helped a woman to survive for 196 hours

(continued on page 11)

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Rescuers rock in Sichuan (from page 1)

while buried in rubble, after the temple collapsed. “Both were in reasonable condition,” Yiu assessed. “The mongrel, Qian-jin, will be housed by the local shelter, and the collie, Guai-guai [identified by other accounts as a German shepherd], by a temple worker. Once the temple is rebuilt, the two dogs will be returned to the temple.”

“Wang Youqiong, 61, was stuck under giant rocks. She survived on raindrops and the help of the two dogs for eight days,” elaborated Raymond Zhou of *China Daily*.

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“They licked her face clean to provide her with much needed moisture on her parched lips. They barked vigorously whenever they sensed human movement nearby. Eventually they were able to attract rescuers.”

Zhou noted other instances of dogs saving people after the quake.

“In a Beichuan police station,” Zhou wrote, “a pug dragged 43-year-old Li Guolin out of a fourth-floor room when the quake hit.

“Another dog was a professional rescuer, not a pet. We know only the name of his breeder, a soldier surnamed Li. Li’s best friend worked for several days and helped locate 35 survivors. But he was crushed to death when a building collapsed. Li was heard crying into the night.”

Continued Zhou, “Should humans save pets and livestock after such a mammoth disaster? No doubt saving human lives has been the top priority—and rightly so. There was a time,” Zhou remembered, “when we held the value of some property—a building, even a log—above human life. There has been a fundamental shift in evaluating human life in the past three decades. We now have more respect for human lives.

“To some animal lovers, pets are just as valuable as human lives.”

While Zhou argued that soldiers and volunteers should not risk their lives to save animals, he wrote, “If a little extra effort can bring out a pet alive, then why not? Both Aesop and Liu Bei of ancient China said, ‘No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.’”

—Merritt Clifton



Tent pet. (Doris Yiu)

What did the Sichuan quake zone animals know—and how soon did they know it?

BEIJING—Unusual animal behavior was widely noted before the May 12, 2008 Sichuan earthquake, but how much of it might have anticipated the quake is anyone’s guess.

“Three days before the earthquake, thousands of toads roamed the streets of Mianzhu, a hard-hit city where at least 2,000 people have been reported killed,” wrote Henry Sanderson of Associated Press. “Mianzhu residents feared the toads were a sign of an approaching natural disaster, but a local forestry bureau official said it was normal, the *Huaxi Metropolitan* newspaper reported May 10, two days before the earthquake.

“The day of the earthquake,” Sanderson continued, “zebras were banging their heads against a door at the zoo in Wuhan, more than 600 miles east of the epicenter, according to the *Wuhan Evening Paper*. Elephants swung their trunks wildly, almost hitting a staff member. The 20 lions and tigers, normally asleep at midday, were pacing. Five minutes before the quake hit, dozens of peacocks started screeching.”

“Physical and chemical stimuli emanate from the earth prior to an earthquake and animals probably sense that,”

Tsunami Society president George Pararas-Carayannis told Dan Martin of Agence France-Press. “Eventually, studies of animal behavior could lead to better and more sophisticated sensors for use in short-term prediction.”

Recalled Martin, “China set up a group, now disbanded, to study” animal behavior as a predictor of earthquakes “in the 1960s. It was widely credited with accurately predicting a 7.3-magnitude 1975 quake in the northeastern Liaoning province.”

Elaborated Sanderson, “In winter 1975, Chinese officials evacuated the city of Haicheng in northeastern Liaoning, based on reports of unusual animal behavior and changes in ground water levels. Still, more than 2,000 people died. Strange environmental phenomena, including changes in well water levels, were also reported a year later before a 7.6 magnitude earthquake in Tangshan in northeastern China that killed 240,000, said Roger Musson of the British Geological Survey.”

Said retired biologist Huang Zhujian, who headed the team that studied animal behavior ahead of earthquakes, “We know animals can see an earthquake coming, but that can play only a supplemental role. We must depend principally on geological methods, and even those cannot clearly predict earthquakes,” he said.

“The animals were trying to tell us something. If only we knew that, not so many people would have died,” Tangshan quake survivor Fu Wenran, 66, told Martin.

Wrote Martin, “Fu, then a farmer on the city’s outskirts, said dogs erupted in wild howling and barking hours before the July 28, 1976 quake struck at 3:42 a.m. Mice and snakes skittered around crazily in the open. Horses and cows kicked at their stable walls.”

“People were irritable and confused. There were many fights that night,” recalled Fu, whose wife was killed.



Hope and Grace (left) enjoy watermelon at Primarily Primates

Celebrating With a Watermelon Party

The hoots and expressions of delight continued for half an hour. Champ, Tina, Carmen (who’s now in her 50s), Buffy, April and Uriah wobbled around with their 20 lb. watermelons, smashed them open, or dribbled them like basketballs for the full length of the outdoor living area.

It was a festive way to bring the chimpanzees into our celebration of the official merger between Friends of Animals and the Texas-based sanctuary Primarily Primates. A truck brought the 80 watermelons—plenty to go around for 65 chimpanzees. The hours-long watermelon party was, we can reveal, a smashing success. Baby Grace jumped up and down on one to crack it open. We wish everyone could have seen her little feet fly!

The first six chimpanzees, the group living in one of the Air Force enclosures beside the pond, rushed out of their bedrooms to discover seven watermelons displayed high in their resting platforms, perched on climbing structures, or nestled in the grass. How wonderful!

When Amy, 11-year-old Hope and one-year-old Grace found their watermelons, Hope carried hers high to the top of the climbing structure, and pounded the whole melon while Grace danced on top of it, hanging from the enclosure’s peak by one arm. Twenty-seven-year-old Amy sounded off with happy grunts, eating each pieces of watermelon to the rind.

Ten year-old Thomas never disappoints. Thomas took ample opportunities to fling pieces of watermelon back at

the staff before devouring most of an entire watermelon before afternoon arrived.

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Five caretakers & one panda dead

WOLONG NATURE RESERVE—The devastating May 12, 2008 Sichuan earthquake killed five Wolong Panda Reserve staff members and one giant panda, Mau Mau, a mother of five cubs, whose remains were found almost a month later. No information was available about the status of the less closely monitored red pandas who share the 772-square-mile Wolong habitat.

Mau Mau and five other giant pandas were for weeks believed to have escaped from the heavily damaged Wolong Giant Panda Breeding Centre—but all the rest were soon found alive and well nearby.

Forty-seven people were killed near the Wolong Panda Reserve, located 20 miles from the epicenter of the earthquake. Initial reports relayed by satellite telephone said that all 86 giant pandas at the reserve were safe, but State Forestry Administration forestry spokesperson Cao Qingyao soon updated to the state-run Xinhua news agency that at least three were unaccounted for.

“The Wolong center is deep in the hills north of Chengdu along a winding two-lane road that reports say was wiped out in places by the quake. Earlier phone and e-mail contact attempts failed,” reported Al Guo of the *South China Morning Post*.

The count of missing pandas increased as surviving staff assessed the extent of the damage to the facilities. “Of the 35

enclosures at breeding center, 14 were destroyed and 18 were severely damaged,” Agence France Presse summarized.

Xixi, the next-to-last giant panda who went missing, was recaptured more than two weeks after the earthquake, when road repair workers saw the bear playing near a river, the *Beijing News* reported.

Shanghai Morning Post reporter Wu Fei was at the Wolong Giant Panda Reserve when the earthquake hit. “Some pandas froze and looked at the sky, not moving even when their handlers tried to get them going. Other handlers picked up baby pandas by the scruff of their necks, one in each hand, and ran, Wu said,” Cara Anna of Associated Press summarized in translation. “The rescue was complicated because some of the pandas were in what the Chinese call their ‘falling in love period,’ being particularly excitable and prone to attack, reserve researcher Heng Yi told Wu.”

“It was surreal. I was spinning around, trying to gain my footing, and as I looked up, I saw a panda trying to do the same thing,” visitor Robert Litwak, 55, told Agence France-Presse.

“The reserve’s location in a damp, narrow valley several hours’ drive from the capital of Sichuan province made it an easy target during the quake, which tossed down boulders the size of cars. Most of the staffers, tourists and pandas were outside at the time,”



Pandas at Chengdu research & breeding center. (Kim Bartlett)

Anna continued.

“The pandas were agitated and pacing,” visitor Pamela Capito, 60, told Yardley of *The New York Times*. “When the earthquake hit, we realized they sensed it coming.”

Elaborated *Times* of London Pengzhou correspondent Jane McCartney, “British tourist Judy Ling Wong was having her photo taken cuddling one of the babies. The earth erupted around her. As she ran from the nursery, keepers grabbed the cub back. In

their playground and pens, adult pandas were pacing in panic as trees tumbled down hillsides. When the earth settled, the visitors and panda keepers realised that the bridge that was their only escape had crumbled into the river that rushed along the bottom of the valley. The keepers improvised a new crossing, lashing together bamboo ladders.

“Once Ms. Wong and her fellow British tourists had been helped across, the keepers ‘carried the babies one by one over the bridge,’ Wong recounted. “You can imagine how difficult and dangerous it was to carry those squirming cubs with the river underneath. As soon as they were across, they ran with each one to shelter.”

The 14 cubs were placed in an undamaged wooden ticket booth, McCartney wrote. “The entire booth, cubs inside, was then moved up the valley to a wider patch of flat ground where they would be in less danger from aftershocks. Two armed guards were deployed outside the ticket booth to protect these tiny national symbols.”

Wrote Guo of the *South China Morning Post*, “To release some pandas and save smaller ones was a decision based purely on their weight—no one was strong enough to carry a panda weighing more than 100 kilograms (200 pounds).”

Thirty-one British tourists and 12 Americans were airlifted from Wolong to Chengdu by helicopter.

“One-year-old Xinnier was the only panda injured amid the chaos after the quake,” Guo wrote. “She stepped on a pile of glass and cut her right foot. Qian Feng, from the Third Military Hospital in Chongqing, who arrived at Wolong on May 16, was just in time to treat the cub.”

Said Qian, “It’s no different from taking care of a human foot. You just make sure no infection occurs.” Caretakers fed Xinnier to distract her while Qian worked. “Whenever the food was finished, Xinnier would start watching her wounds,” Qian added. “So they had to feed her non-stop to squeeze me some operating time.”

But panda food was soon scarce.

Wolong Nature Reserve deputy chief Wang Pengyan told *Guardian* Beijing correspondent Tania Branigan

(continued on page 13)



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Five caretakers & a panda killed at Wolong breeding center (from page 12)

that, "Many buildings have collapsed or are unsafe, a new road to the center is unusable, and vast areas of bamboo," which provide food for the Wolong pandas, "have been destroyed."

The State Forestry Association flew five tons of bamboo to Wolong among the first cargoes of emergency supplies.

Eight two-year-old pandas were already slated for exhibit in Beijing for six months overlapping the 2008 Olympic Games, due to start on August 8. The move became an evacuation. The pandas who were sent to Beijing had resumed eating normally before

they were airlifted out, Wang said.

The bamboo shortage was relieved by moving as many pandas as possible to other sites, including the Chengdu breeding center, located across the city from the Animals Asia Foundation sanctuary for Asiatic black bears rescued from bile farms. The Chengdu center already housed 63 giant pandas.

Restoring the Wolong facilities, still occupied by 47 giant pandas, might take "10 or 20 years," Wang estimated.

"It's better to move, I think," Wolong Giant Panda Reserve director Zhang Hemin told Anna of Associated Press. "I'm

worrying about secondary disasters, such as severe aftershocks."

The Wolong reserve was proclaimed in 1963. The breeding center was built in 1983 to house just 10 pandas, recalled Xinhua News Agency editor Mu Xuequan. The nearby Wuyipeng Lesser Panda Semi-Natural Center was originally part of the giant panda breeding center, but was given to red pandas after the giant panda population outgrew it.

Post-quake, Wolong may become chiefly a wild panda monitoring center. "Long before the quake, researchers at Wolong had been placing hidden cameras throughout the

reserve to monitor pandas," reported *New York Times* China correspondent Jim Yardley. "Now that footage will be used to help assess the impact of the disaster." But patrols of the reserve and a planned wild panda census were indefinitely suspended while all hands coped with the earthquake aftermath.

"Even before the earthquake, authorities were considering nearby sites for a new panda centre," Mu Xuequan said. "Li Desheng, deputy director of the breeding centre, had said that the present site faced the risk of flooding and landslides."

Evacuating the pandas remaining at the Wolong breeding center was delayed by damage to other panda facilities. China Wildlife Conservation Association secretary general Yang Baijin "said many Sichuan panda reserves had been affected," Branigan of the *Guardian* summarized.

Eight giant pandas were safe at a preserve in Ya'an, for example, "about an hour's drive west of Chengdu," said Guo of the *South China Morning Post*, but the facility had limited capacity to take in more.

About 1,590 giant pandas remain in the wild, wrote Mu Xuequan, 75% of them in Sichuan, 17% in Shaanxi, and 7% in Gansu. Red pandas are more numerous and more broadly distributed, but are also recognized as a threatened species. —Merritt Clifton

More events

(continued from page 9)

Oct. 16-19: Spay USA conf., Chicago. Info: 1-800-248-SPAY; <always-spay@aol.com>; <www.spay-usa.org>.

Oct. 17-19: Animal Law Conf., Portland, Ore. Info: <melemire@lclark.edu>; <www.animallawconference.com>.

Oct. 20-22: Cultural & Religious Issues in Animal Welfare conf., Cairo, Egypt. Info: <jmr9@cornell.edu> or <m.chaudry@infancia.org>.

Oct. 24-26: No More Homeless Pets conf., Las Vegas. Info: <conferences@bestfriends.org>; <www.nomorehomelesspetsconference.org>.

Oct. 29-31: International Companion Animal Welfare Conference, Stresa, Italy. Info: <hq-icawc@dogstrust.org.uk>; <www.icawc.org>.

IF YOUR GROUP IS HOLDING AN EVENT, please let us know—we'll be happy to announce it here, and we'll be happy to send free samples of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** for your guests.



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**humane society**
of louisiana

Help Us Honor The Animal Victims of Hurricane Katrina
With the National Animal Memorial Statue in New Orleans

Dear Friends,

Countless thousands of people came to the aid of animals in desperate need in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Together, your kind actions and contributions saved thousands of lives along the Gulf Coast and in our hometown of New Orleans, where our shelter was destroyed. Our agency and the people of our region are forever in your debt. To show our appreciation and to honor the animals who perished in this devastating national disaster, we will be hosting a ceremony in New Orleans this year, on the third anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. The observance will include a memorial service and the unveiling of the National Katrina Animal Memorial. We will also host a luncheon and conduct a tour of our wonderful city, where our group is one of many still working to rebuild and recover from the hurricane. For more information or to make reservations, please visit our website at www.HumaneLA.org or call 1-888-6-HUMANE.

Also, it's not too late to help sponsor our nation's first memorial for the animal victims of Hurricane Katrina. Please contact info@HumaneLA.org or call 1-888-6-HUMANE for a list of sponsorship levels. The names of animals, friends, and first responders can also be listed on the memorial plaque that will accompany the statue at a reduced price. We want all of the animals who perished and all of the people who made a difference to be remembered. To help us raise funds and awareness for this project you may also purchase commemorative T-shirts in all colors and sizes for \$20, coffee mugs for \$10, magnets for \$5 or a button for \$4. Phone, fax, and credit card orders welcome. Please call 1-888-6-HUMANE or fax 1-504-324-0633. Please add \$3 shipping for each mug or t-shirt and \$1 per mug or magnet. Contact us for quantity shipping discounts.

On behalf of the Humane Society of Louisiana and the animals in our care, we thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

Jeff Dorson
Executive Director

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New Orleans, LA 70174

Victory for the Horses!

After SHARK placed relentless pressure on the Cheyenne Frontier Days rodeo by exposing their cruelty, the rodeo chair announced that from now on, horses will only be shocked in cases of an emergency.

This is a great first step, but the cruel and deadly events of steer roping, calf roping and wild horse race still have not been addressed by the CFD officials.

Incredibly, the booking company for Cheyenne Frontier Days has filed a *federal lawsuit* against SHARK that is an outrageous slap in the face to the First Amendment, asking that SHARK be barred from informing entertainers about the facts of what **REALLY** happens at the Cheyenne Rodeo.



To view the shocking documentation for yourself and to get more information on this cruel and deadly rodeo, please visit www.shameoncheyenne.com

Please help SHARK fight this frivolous lawsuit, which if successful, will silence animal activists everywhere! Help us continue to fight the remaining cruel and deadly events at Cheyenne Frontier Days that include steer roping, calf roping, and the wild horse race.

SHARK, P.O. Box 28, Geneva, IL 60134
www.sharkonline.org



Live cattle exports resume; new *fatwa* (from page 1)

However, Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, the Chief Imam and Shaikh of al-Azhar, Egypt, on April 24, 2008 issued a *fatwa*, or religious opinion, intended to reinforce observance of the intent of the *halla* slaughter laws, regardless of the enforcement or non-enforcement of any applicable civil laws.

"Ahmed el-Sherbiny, lawyer before the Court of Cassation and chair of the Egyptian Society for Animal Friends, has presented a letter that includes a request for a legal opinion on two matters," Tantawi opened. "The first matter deals with those people who torture an animal at slaughter by committing acts that are contradictory with treatment with mercy. The second matter deals with long-distance transport of animals from one country to another by means that do not provide for the animal's safety or kind treatment," described in detail, Tantawi mentioned, in el-Sherbiny's request for the *fatwa*.

"Islamic law requires that an animal at the time of slaughter must be treated with kindness and with procedures that guarantee mercy," Tantawi affirmed. "Fulfilling this order requires doing everything that makes the animal comfortable at the time of slaughter...Many authenticated sayings of the Prophet show the prohibition on undertaking to sharpen or hone the instrument of slaughter in front of the animal to be slaughtered." For example, Tantawi wrote, "The Prophet saw a man sharpening his knife in front of the animal who was to be slaughtered, and the Prophet forbade that, and said to the man: 'Do you want to slaughter the animal twice—once by sharpening the knife in front of the animal, and the second time by cutting its throat?'"

"Imam Ali also forbade slaughtering a sheep in front of another sheep or any other animal," Tantawi mentioned, "so that the animal's perceptions are not harmed at the last moment of its life.

"Any action incompatible with kindness to animals or treating them any way other than with mercy at the time of slaughter is forbidden and sinful, and is inconsistent with the kindness to animals that Islam requires," Tantawi emphasized.

"With regard to the second question," Tantawi continued, "we advise that Islam's call for kindness to animals and for treating them with mercy applies to all situations. This includes transporting animals. Transport must be done in a way that is comfortable and ensures the animal's safety. The means

of transport must protect against causing pain to the animal, any threat to the life of the animal, or infection of the animal with diseases contagious to humans or others.

"This rule is inferred from the saying of the Prophet that 'Humans have the chance to perform a charitable act in their treatment of every living being.' And also in his saying, 'A woman went to hell because of a cat that she had confined without leaving it any food, or allowing the cat access to bugs or fruits of the earth to eat.' These two sayings of the Prophet, and others like them," Tantawi wrote, "show that the treatment of animals must be based upon the principle of mercy in every situation, including in transport."

Said el-Sherbiny, "We believe that this *fatwa* could make a huge difference in the treatment of animals in slaughterhouses and animal transportation throughout the Islamic world, if it receives adequate exposure."

The *fatwa* was distributed in Arabic two weeks before el-Sherbiny released the first official English translation.

On May 8, 2008, the same day that el-Sherbiny released the translation, one day before Burke lifted the Australian cattle export ban, Animals Australia executive director Glenys Oogjes reported the permanent closure of a small slaughterhouse in Amman, the capital of Jordan, where Animals Australia investigator White had videotaped workers beating a bull with a bar to force him into the killing room.

"Overnight last night we learnt that, after months of lobbying, that terrible place has been closed permanently," Oogjes e-mailed, "due to the horrific video finally being shown to the right people. It had been sent to them immediately—but they did not want to watch it, it seems. In addition to closing the place, the Mayor of Amman has said that he will support workshops to train other butchers in his area, and will contact the government minister who can influence other cities and towns to take similar steps to improve the conduct of abattoirs.

"The breakthrough occurred," Oogjes said, "as a result of a considered strategy to bring into play the influence of the Jordanian Royal Family. Our newly formed Action Network writing groups were asked to write to Queen Rania of Jordan through her website and provide her with the link to the footage, and then to write to the Mayor of Amman to alert him that they had appealed to Queen Rania.

"We received an e-mail yesterday from the Jordanian



king's sister advising us that the slaughterhouse had been closed," Oogjes continued. "She was immensely grateful for the emails from Australia, and armed with our footage, stormed into the offices of the Mayor and forced him and other staff to watch it. She is to remain personally involved to ensure that the promised further actions go forward. To that end we are in contact with Compassion in World Farming, the World Society for the Protection of Animals, and the Marchig Trust—who funded that particular Animals Australia investigation—to assist with training, expertise and funding."

But Oogjes and WSPA were frustrated on May 21, 2008, when the Animal Transport Association honored the animal transport firm Livecorp at its annual conference in Dresden, while refusing to allow WSPA to show video of abuses in live transport.

"The WSPA film includes segments of Animals Australia footage of Australian sheep exported to the Middle East," said an Animals Australia press release. "WSPA is a full member of Animal Transport Association, and had submitted their film three months ago—but was advised just prior to the conference that the association believed the film was not an accurate portrayal of the livestock transport industry."



The laws and customs of ancient pastoralists persist in much of the world. Taken in Peru, this photo could show traditional herding almost anywhere. (Kim Bartlett)

Livestock took biggest quake hit

CHENGDU—The most numerous sentient victims of the May 12, 2008 Sichuan earthquake were livestock. Fourteen million chickens and rabbits, 3.8 million pigs, 178,000 goats, and 60,000 cows died in collapsed or inaccessible barns, the Chinese agriculture min-

istry updated on June 4, nearly doubling the estimate of pig losses.

Sichuan pig slaughter will drop 10% in 2008 due to the earthquake, the agriculture ministry estimated.

"Our headquarters for all of China is in Chengdu," said Heifer

International spokesperson Ashley Michael, acknowledging that personnel and facilities had been shaken, but mentioning no deaths among the staff at the 28 Heifer International projects in Sichuan. Pledging to help rebuild the region's livestock industry, Heifer International commenced fundraising for earthquake response almost immediately.

Edward Wong of *The New York Times* appeared to be the only reporter at the earthquake scene who mentioned anyone helping the livestock victims, if only to slaughter the animals later. "A farmer returning to look at his home told me he had found some pigs still alive and fed them corn," wrote Wong on May 25. "He wanted to come back for them in five or six days."

Wong and his driver, a Mr. Yu, rescued a brown puppy who was wearing a red ribbon, found amid the rubble of collapsed apartment blocks.

If you know someone else who might like to read **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, please ask us to send a free sample.

Dear friends and colleagues,

The most frequently asked question regarding the annual dolphin slaughter in Japan is: What can I do to help? Our Japanese colleagues at Elsa Nature Conservancy have come up with a brilliant new answer to that question: Help us get a warning label on all packages of dolphin meat sold in Japan.

Here's how you can help: Clip the coupon below, place it in an stamped envelope and send it to the Japanese Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare. You can also Xerox and fax it. The petition is not asking the minister to deal with food culture issues or cruelty issues. We are simply requesting a warning label similar to the one that's placed on every package of cigarettes sold in Japan. We believe this will greatly reduce consumption. Yes, people still buy cigarettes despite the warning label, but cigarettes are extremely addictive. Dolphin meat is not.

Please include the petition in your newsletter, urging your members to contact the minister by e-mail c/o syokucommunication@mhlw.go.jp and fax: **+81-3-3503-7965**.

And please support Japan Dolphin Day on September 3, 2008. The proposed warning label will be the major theme for this international event.

Thank you, -- Ric O'Barry

www.SaveJapanDolphins.org



PETITION TO WARN THE JAPANESE PEOPLE OF MERCURY DANGER

Policy Planning and Communication Division
The Department of Food Safety Bureau
The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo, 100-8916 Japan

Dear Minister of Health:

There is worldwide concern that mercury accumulated in the human body may pose a serious health risk, especially to pregnant women and children.

As you know, dolphin meat from drive hunts in Taiji, Wakayama prefecture, proved to be highly contaminated with toxic chemicals such as mercury, methyl mercury and PCBs. Repeated chemical analyses have shown that the level of mercury in dolphin meat is much higher than the maximum allowable level set by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare of Japan.

We understand that the role of the Department of Food Safety Bureau is to promote food safety, thereby ensuring the health of the Japanese people. We urgently request the following:

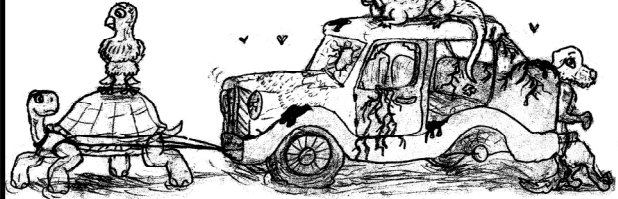
1. Prohibit the sale of dolphin meat that contains mercury exceeding the maximum allowable level set by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW). The sale of food items with toxic agricultural chemicals exceeding the maximum allowable level set by MHLW is already prohibited as a result of the Positive-list System, which was adopted in 2006. Since mercury is as harmful to the human body as toxic agricultural chemicals, the Positive-list System should also apply to mercury.

2. Until the above request is put into effect, consumers must be warned of the dangers associated with consuming mercury contaminated dolphin meat, in much the same way they are being warned of the health risks associated with smoking cigarettes: Every store that sells dolphin meat must be obligated to post a prominent warning label on each meat package, stating as follows: "This food item possibly contains mercury exceeding the maximum allowable level set by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. Mercury accumulated in the human body may harm your health."

Sincerely,

Name & address: _____

Donate your old car & help support ANIMAL PEOPLE!



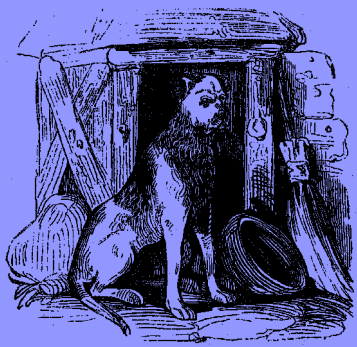
It's easy to make a contribution that supports **ANIMAL PEOPLE! Here's how it works:**

Call Toll-Free 877-537-5277, or e-mail donations@charitableautoresources.com

to reach a vehicle donation representative of Charitable Auto Resources (CARS). The CARS representative will schedule a vehicle pickup that's convenient for you, and provide you with confirmation of your donation. If the gross proceeds from the sale of your donated vehicle are \$500 or more and if you provide your Social Security number to the representative at the time of your donation, you will also receive an IRS tax form 1098C stating the sale price of the vehicle. This amount is what you actually claim on the itemized tax return.

(According to the tax law effective January 1, 2005, if the claimed value of the donated vehicle exceeds \$500, the taxpayer is limited to the gross proceeds of the sale.)

CARS is a commercial fundraiser; required notice of solicitation on file at the State of Washington Office of Secretary of State; potential donors can obtain financial disclosure information on CARS via Secretary of State 1-800-332-4483.



The Watchdog

The Watchdog monitors fundraising, spending, and political activity in the name of animal and habitat protection—both pro and con. His empty bowl stands for all the bowls left empty when some take more than they need.

SPCA International controversy heats up after New York Times exposé

MONTREAL, NEW YORK—Run an online search for the web coordinates of the Montreal SPCA, also known as the Canadian SPCA, and one is likely to find www.SPCA.com.

This was the Montreal SPCA web address for years, but somehow it was claimed by Pierre Barnoti, executive director of the Montreal SPCA from 1995 to March 2008.

Barnoti transferred www.SPCA.com to SPCA International, an entity he incorporated in Delaware, initially using a New Hampshire mailing address and now using an address in Washington D.C.

Now, reported Brad Stone of *The New York Times* on May 18, 2008, “The new board members at the Montreal SPCA,” having ousted Barnoti in March 2008, “are looking at how to get their domain name back.

“If Pierre Barnoti transferred this domain name to another company, that was not in the best interest of the Montreal SPCA,” Montreal SPCA board member Wendy Adams told Stone. “It appears he has used this asset to his own benefit. It’s self-dealing, and it’s a breach of fiduciary duty,” Adams alleged.

Adams, a law professor at McGill University, is noted for her work on international intellectual property rights issues.

The SPCA International web site includes an extensive legal notice indicating that Barnoti and associates have also claimed numerous other names. “References to ‘SPCA’ in this document,” the notice stipulates, “mean SPCA International, Inc., its affiliates, subsidiaries, divisions, operational designees, and community sites (including, for example, SPCACA, SPCANY, SPCAFL, SPCAUSA, SPCA Foundation).” The notice also contains an eight-point set of instructions for “Alleging copyright infringement.”

“In an effort to beef up the group’s web presence, Barnoti consulted Paul Irwin,” wrote Stone, affirming earlier reportage by **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Irwin was a vice president of the Humane Society of the U.S. from 1975 to 1996, and was president of HSUS from 1996 to 2004. He has recently headed the American Bible Society.

Richard Gordon

“In an interview, Irwin said that he introduced Mr. Barnoti to Richard Gordon,” Stone continued. “Gordon’s company designed the SPCA.com site, and James D. Winston, a longtime business associate of Gordon, is listed on tax documents as the organization’s executive director. SPCA International declined to make Mr. Winston available for an interview.

“It’s not clear how much Gordon profits from his work on SPCA International,” wrote Stone. “But the chief executives of pet-supplies.com, an e-commerce partner listed on the SPCA.com site, and Pet-Togethers, an advertiser on the site, both say their company’s financial relationship is not with SPCA International but with a separate entity, the SPCA Foundation. According to California corporate records, the foundation was registered as a for-profit company last August by Gordon’s lawyer,” Miles Woodlief.

“Gordon appears to have no operational role” at SPCA International, Stone assessed. “The group is involved in a range of initiatives. Every few weeks, SPCA International selects a ‘shelter of the week’ from around the world and then asks for money for that shelter. Four of five shelters that were awarded this distinction over the past two months,” Stone wrote, “say that they received a \$1,000 check and a plaque for the honor—but not a percentage of any donations. The fifth shelter, Welfare of Our Furry Friends, in West Sacramento, California, says it received \$48.”

ANIMAL PEOPLE polled SPCA International “shelter of the week” designees in January 2008, finding similar results.

Stone’s exposé, titled “An E-Commerce Empire, From Porn to Puppies,” focused on Gordon.

“In 1979, six years after being honorably discharged from the Navy,” Stone recounted, Gordon was found by FBI agents “in a closet of a friend’s apartment in Washington, D.C. On a living room table were four round-trip Concorde tickets to Paris.” Gordon was under investigation for allegedly embezzling from customer accounts at insurance and financial planning companies he operated near Albany, New York. “He was convicted in 1980 of mail fraud, interstate transportation of a stolen check, and making a false statement to a bank,” Stone found. “He served more than two years of a seven-year sentence in federal prison.”

Gordon, 62, next “made a fortune by taking a commission for processing sales on a range of [web] sites from small mainstream retailers to others like ClubLove,” Stone revealed. “His payment processing company continues to have roots in the world of sexual entertainment. One of the several companies he owns or operates, Processing Solutions, facilitates credit card transactions for the web sites Dial Talk International, according to current and former employees familiar with the arrangements. DTI is based on the Caribbean island of Curaçao and runs, from Los

Angeles, a vast and profitable network of explicit web sites for the Japanese market.”

“DTI appears to rank in the top 1% of adult entertainment companies in the world,” Stone was told by *AVN Online* publisher M. J. McMahon, who reports about the adult entertainment industry.

“CryptoLogic, an early Canadian online gambling network,” was another of Gordon’s major clients, Stone reported.

Gordon and former partners were involved in a messy bankruptcy in 1999. Gordon was paid \$2 million as part of the settlement, and retained his relationship with DTI and DTI founder Wataru Takahashi, with whom he has been involved in other ventures.

Paul Irwin

“Richard Gordon has one other man to thank for helping him land on his feet,” wrote Stone: “Paul Irwin.”

Irwin, as HSUS president, hired Gordon in April 2003, two years after Irwin’s original scheduled retirement, but one year before the HSUS board elected current HSUS president Wayne Pacelle to succeed him.

“Tax returns for HSUS show that the organization paid \$881,000 to Mr. Gordon’s new venture, Exciting New Technologies,” Stone recounted. “In May 2003, according to a press release at the time, Gordon hired Irwin’s son Christopher as director of business development at Exciting New Technologies. The younger Mr. Irwin could not be reached for comment. It is not clear how long he worked there.”

HSUS discontinued dealing with Gordon shortly before the end of Paul Irwin’s HSUS presidency, but Paul Irwin again hired Gordon after becoming president of American Bible Society in 2006, paying Gordon more than \$5 million over the next two years, Stone learned.

“I have absolutely no knowledge of Richard Gordon’s involvement in pornography,” Irwin told Stone. “If anyone can provide me evidence that he is involved in pornography, then I want you to know he will be out of the American Bible Society today.”

Two days before Stone’s exposé appeared, “The American Bible Society and Richard Gordon have mutually agreed to terminate all existing business relationships,” the society announced.

“The society added that it was continuing to investigate Mr. Gordon and his business with the organization,” wrote Stone.

The American Bible Society placed Paul Irwin and chief financial officer Richard B. Stewart Jr. on paid temporary leave three

days after Stone published his findings. On June 13, 2008 American Bible Society board chair Dennis C. Dickerson announced that Irwin’s contract would not be renewed. The contract was to expire on June 30, wrote Lilian Kwon of the *Christian Post Reporter*.

Montreal SPCA

The Montreal SPCA, \$4 million in debt at Barnoti’s departure, is reportedly struggling to avoid bankruptcy and trying to find out how it came to be in financial distress.

The new management team reportedly found serious neglect of facilities at the Montreal SPCA shelter

“The shelter lobby still reeks of urine, but refurbishing the ventilation and air conditioning has begun,” recounted Max Harrold of the *Montreal Gazette* on June 8, 2008. “With no computerized inventory system, acting executive director Alanna Devine can’t say exactly how many animals have come through or been euthanized. But McGill University has donated 15 computers, she said. Choosing—and paying for—shelter management software is the next step.

“Rescue group volunteers spent two weeks cleaning a formerly abandoned suite of CSPCA offices,” Harrold added. “Pigeons had entered through a broken window, and the place was caked with droppings, said Maggie Shuter, whose Animal Adoption Montreal rescue specializes in purebred cats and dogs.”

“Baghdad Buddies”

SPCA International appears to be doing business as usual, promoting the “shelter of the week” program and “Baghdad Buddies,” a program that has reportedly brought about half a dozen pets of U.S. soldiers stationed in Iraq back to the U.S.

Both programs are directed by Terri Crisp, identified as “SPCA International’s Animal Resource and Rescue Consultant.”

Crisp was disaster relief coordinator for United Animal Nations from 1991 to 2001. She formed her own organization, Noah’s Wish, after controversies surfaced about her work during Hurricane Floyd and following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Reportedly receiving \$8.4 million in donations after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Noah’s Wish came under investigation by the California Attorney General over how the funds were allocated. Terminated by the Noah’s Wish board in March 2007, Crisp founded an organization called Animal Resources later in the year. She began working with SPCA International soon afterward.

—Merritt Clifton

Rise of Quebec politician to WSPA board presidency raises questions

LONDON—The World Society for the Protection of Animals board on June 5, 2008 elected Montreal attorney and 20-year WSPA board member Dominique Bellemare to serve as board president. This might have occasioned little notice, except that Bellemare is a prominent Canadian politician, who has no visible record on such prominent Canadian political topics as the Atlantic Canada seal hunt and efforts to update the 1893 Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

Bellemare’s web site, <dominiquebellemare.com>, as of his ascent to the WSPA board presidency made no mention of either animal issues or WSPA, but his 2004 campaign biography, distributed as part of an unsuccessful run for Parliament, mentioned involvement with the pro-hunting organization Ducks Unlimited, as well as with WSPA and the Humane Society of Canada.

WSPA has had strained relations with the Humane Society of Canada, founded in 1993 by former WSPA representative Michael O’Sullivan. Bellemare, then-Humane Society of the U.S. president John Hoyt, and then-HSUS vice president Paul Irwin completed the founding board. Both were also on the WSPA board. Irwin, born in Canada but living in Maryland, claimed Canadian residence on a passport application in order to get around a Canadian requirement that the majority of board members be Canadians. His Canadian passport was later revoked, and an Ontario judge ordered HSUS to repay \$740,000 that it seized from the Humane Society of Canada after the HSUS executives split with O’Sullivan.

Involved in Progressive-Conservative politics since his middle teens, Bellemare earned a degree in biology in 1983, added a law degree in 1987, and was admitted to the

Quebec bar in 1988. Bellemare lost runs for Parliament in both 1997 and 2004, but co-chaired the 1995 Progressive-Conservative national convention, and was national secretary of the party when it merged with Alliance Canada in 2003 to form the present Conservative Party.

With WSPA, “In recent years Bellemare has occupied the positions of [board] secretary, junior vice president, chairman of the nominating committee etc.,” WSPA director general Peter Davies told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “I forward to you a paraphrasing of Dominique’s response to your queries:

“First of all, on the web, “ Bellemare said through Davies, “you do find interventions I did on behalf of WSPA, including dolphinaria,” but **ANIMAL PEOPLE** found no such “interventions,” found only one incidental mention of his name as a WSPA board member in a WSPA publication addressing dolphinaria, and found no record of his involvement in either of the most recent Montreal-area campaigns against marine mammal captivity. One blocked a 1993-1995 attempt by the Montreal Biodome to acquire belugas; the other blocked a 2001 plan by the Granby Zoo to acquire dolphins.

“As far as Ducks Unlimited is involved,” Bellemare continued via Davies, “I gave them a few donations. In Canada, Ducks Unlimited is mostly viewed as a conservator of habitats, and they are quite involved in a large project in my constituency, where they signed a big agreement to save a large eco-sensitive area in an urban environment. They are quite different than their U.S. counterpart, who are mostly a hunters association. It is such a conservation organisation that the Canadian magazine of Ducks Unlimited Canada is strictly about conservation, with no hunting articles, because it upsets

too much their members/donors!”

States the Ducks Unlimited Canada web site, “Ducks Unlimited Canada was founded in 1938 by sportsmen. Today, DUC continues to enjoy the support of conservation-minded hunters across the country... DUC supports waterfowl hunting.” Another DUC web page lists “hunting resources.”

Added Bellemare through Davies, “Regarding my association with the Conservative Party of Canada,” which currently governs Canada and supports the seal hunt, “yes it is true, but the Conservative Government is not more pro seal hunt than all the previous Canadian governments, all parties taken into consideration! The [current] quotas are not the highest in 25 years either.” In fact, the current Canadian sealing quotas are the highest since quotas have been set. The 335,000 seals pelted in 2006 were the most killed in at least 53 years.

Bellemare did not answer questions about his role as a partner in the Montreal law firm Bloomfield, Bellemare, from 1990 until 2004 or later. Senior partner Harry J.F. Bloomfield, honorary consul for both Belize and Liberia, was convicted in the U.S. in November 2002 “for using corporations and bank accounts in secrecy havens such as Belize and Liberia to facilitate securities fraud schemes orchestrated by their New York clients,” wrote Stephanie Ayers of *Financial Crime News* in an April 2005 special report. The Bloomfield case was further described by New York County district attorney’s office investigations division bureau chief Arthur D. Middlemass in testimony to a March 29, 2006 hearing on “Offshore banking, corruption, and the war on terrorism” convened by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on International Relations Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations.

Addenda to *Swinging Canadian elections keeps the sealers swinging clubs:* Animal Alliance of Canada pursues electoral strategy

Commentary by Merritt Clifton

Long before University of Texas at El Paso philosophy department chair Steven Best became a popular speaker at animal rights conferences, noted for fiery defenses of “direct action” vandalism, film maker Stephen Best of Shelburne, Ontario became quietly known to animal advocacy insiders—and the political opposition—as one of the most astute strategists in the cause. When defenders of the seal hunt produced strategy papers, obtained eventually by news media, Best was repeatedly identified as one of the voices most essential to isolate and neutralize, even though few grassroots activists had ever heard his name.

Grassroots activists knew his work. Best’s 1973 documentary *Seal Song*, commissioned by the International Fund for Animal Welfare, “became part of the long-running British television series *Survival*,” he remembers. More than that, *Seal Song* put the annual Atlantic Canada seal hunt into living rooms worldwide. Eighteen years earlier, film maker Harry Lillie brought back the first film of the seal hunt, inspiring an informed few to revive anti-sealing campaigns that had previously been waged in the early 1900s, late 1920s, and late 1930s, but it was *Seal Song* that turned the cause into a cultural phenomenon.

Best produced wildlife documentaries through 1980, then accepted a full-time job with IFAW. From 1980 to 1984, Best “developed and managed various political, election, and public relation campaigns in Germany, the United Kingdom, and Belgium,” he recalls. These campaigns won a ban on the import of baby harp and hooded seal products into the European Community. “The ban reduced the number of seals killed in Canada’s commercial seal hunt from almost 200,000 per year to about 20,000,” Best recounts.

Best in 1985 helped other ex-IFAW staff to found the International Wildlife Coalition, but left IWC in 1998, after “finally admitting that the environmental movement was making no net progress,” he says. “Despite 5,000% growth in monies and membership between 1970 and 1998,” Best adds, “the international environmental protection community achieved a further 40% degradation in our environment.” Best returned to screen production, while contemplating new approaches to ending the seal hunt. The hunt, nearly history a decade earlier, had been revived in 1995 with higher quotas than ever before.

Having heard nothing from Best in 10 years, and having been unsuccessful in an attempt to find him, I had no idea what Best had been doing since 1998 when I wrote my May 2008 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** commentary “Swinging Canadian elections keeps the sealers swinging clubs.”

I learned a month later that Best and Animal Alliance of Canada executive director Liz White had co-authored a similar essay in November 2002. Though distributed to mass media and posted to the Animal Alliance web site, it did not reach **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, and received much less attention than it deserved.

“Despite decades of intensive, well-funded anti-seal hunt protesting,” Best and White wrote, “the seal hunt is larger now than 30 years ago...more cruel, and is managed with less regard for science, conservation, and the survival of harp and hooded seals. What this dismal record of failure proves is that all the strategies and tactics used in Canada in the past to end the seal hunt don’t work.

“The only reason the anti-seal hunt community was able to secure the European seal import ban [in 1983] was electoral politics,” Best and White observed. “For individual politicians in Europe, defending Canada and its seal hunt became an electoral liability.”

Almost a year later, in September 2003, Best produced a document entitled *End the Seal Hunt Strategy Framework*, also

posted to the web, yet largely overlooked by anti-seal hunt campaigners.

“The seal hunt will end—or be dramatically reduced—when two conditions are met in Canada: the political cost of the seal hunt to federal politicians and political parties exceeds its political benefit, and there is a plausibly justifiable reason for reducing the hunt, other than appearing to succumb to the pressures created by advocacy,” Best wrote.

“Politically,” Best determined, “the Canadian seal hunt has a value of seven to a dozen federal seats in Atlantic Canada and Quebec. In the current Canadian political environment a pro-seal hunt policy is necessary for a politician or a political party to get elected in these districts. An anti-seal hunt policy would insure defeat. In the rest of Canada, the seal hunt is electorally irrelevant: seal hunt policy does not influence enough votes to matter. [Therefore] It is obvious to every politician and to all the federal parties that a pro seal hunt policy is good politics.

“The political benefits of a pro seal hunt policy can be eliminated and turned into unacceptable political costs by direct involvement in elections,” Best projected. “Electoral involvement means conducting election campaigns in electoral districts that the voting history and polling suggest will likely be decided by 5% of the voters or less. The campaigns should have the objective of shifting votes from one candidate to another, i.e. influencing who wins or who loses. It is this kind of political activity that is of concern to politicians.

“The federal government and all political parties have strong pro seal hunt policies,” Best emphasized, “not because they believe sealing is intrinsically important, but rather because they are cognizant and wary of the political power wielded by the fishing community and, to a lesser extent, the sealing community...Power resides in the pro seal hunt advocates, not the seal hunt issue.”

Best was already mobilizing.

“In 1998,” White told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “Animal Alliance founded Environment Voters, our political arm. The intent was that Environment Voters would reward politicians who had a supportive environmental and animal protection record and punish those who did not. Best was instrumental in helping us set up Environment Voters, assisting with strategic decisions and campaigning in a number of key elections.

“We were involved in provincial elections and by-elections, federal elections and by-elections, and municipal elections,” White continued. “In 2000, amendments to the Canada Elections Act were introduced that would eliminate any meaningful involvement of third parties in electoral politics at the federal level. The National Citizens Coalition through Stephen Harper,” now the pro-sealing prime minister of Canada, “challenged this change right up to the Supreme Court of Canada. Although Harper won in all the lower courts, he lost in the Supreme Court. So, third parties can only spend just over \$3,000 per riding [electoral district] and \$120,000 to pay for general electoral information but not

specific riding information.

“Through Environment Voters,” White said, “we demonstrated that we could shift 4% to 5% of the vote in any given riding. In ridings that were won or lost by less than 4% to 5%, a campaign to shift the votes could affect the outcome. The cost ranged from \$15,000 to \$20,000 in tight races and more in ridings that were not so closely contested. The effect of the amendments to the Canada Elections Act was to remove any possibility of influencing votes in the swing ridings.

“Around the same time that the Supreme Court set strict limits on third party spending,” White added, “the Court removed the barriers to forming a political party. The only way to be involved in an effective way now at the federal level in Canada is to become a political party. In December 2005, we achieved party status. We are now the Animal Alliance Environment Voters Party of Canada. We are in the process of building the party so that we can influence the electoral process around the seal hunt and other issues.”

The Animal Alliance supports the boycott of Canadian seafood called by the Humane Society of the U.S., “and we support the initiatives in the European Union to get a European ban on seal products,” White added.

But their bottom-line strategy now is swinging votes.

[Contact the Animal Alliance of Canada c/o 221 Broadview Ave., Toronto, Ontario M4M 2G3; 416-462-9541; <liz@AnimalAlliance.ca>; <http://AnimalAlliance.ca>.]

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Wildlife Service seeks to trap & shoot cats (from pg. 1)

“The plan comes just a few years after the controversial eradication of rats and pigs on Anacapa and Santa Cruz islands,” recalled Hadly. “The National Park Service points to the campaign as a success and says it helped in the recovery of several near-extinct native species.”

But the killing put the Channel Island foxes on the endangered species list, as the remains of pigs, sheep, and goats, also shot on the islands, attracted golden eagles. When the carrion ran out, the eagles hunted the foxes.

The proposed San Nicholas Island cat killing followed a strategy of authorizing hunters to kill “harmful nonnative species,” including cats, which would become enshrined as National Wildlife Refuge system policy if federal bill HR 767 slips through the 110th Congress before it adjourns.

Pushed by the American Bird Conservancy, HR 767 in October 2007 unanimously cleared the House of Representatives and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee before ANIMAL PEOPLE brought it to the notice of the national animal advocacy community.

HR 767 was then assigned to the Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works, where it has remained.

“We’re lobbying the Senate committee on the bill,” HSUS senior vice president for legislation Mike Markarian told ANIMAL PEOPLE.

“I’ve been talking with the Senate staffer on the Environment & Public Works committee who has been assigned to HR 767,” added Alley Cat Allies legal fellow Will Gomaa. “She says there are no plans to move on HR 767 soon, and the bill hasn’t really come up. If that changes, you can be sure we’ll alert our supporters to take action.”

The San Nicolas island cat killing proposal asserts that exterminating cats on islands off Mexico, Australia and South Africa has had immediate positive results for seabirds, but the actual evidence is questionable.

Recently explained *New York Times* science columnist Henry Fountain, “The predator-prey relationship is simple, right? If a predator is around, that is bad for the prey, and if the predator is removed, that is good for the prey.”

“Ecological theory, however, suggests that isn’t always the case, particularly if there is more than one predator species around and they share the same prey. In that case, elimination of the top predator may allow the midlevel predator to thrive, and the result may actually be worse for the prey.”

For example, Fountain continued, “Matt J. Rayner of the University of Auckland and colleagues found such a case on Little Barrier Island,” off New Zealand. “They studied the impact of two predators, feral cats and kiore, or Pacific rats, on a small burrowing seabird, Cook’s petrel. Kiore were introduced to the island hundreds of years ago, and cats were intro-

duced in the 1870s. Both preyed on the petrels, with the cats also preying on the rats. Both were eventually eradicated, the cats in 1980, the rats in 2004.

“The researchers analyzed data on petrel chick survivability from 1972 to 2007,” Fountain wrote. “As they report in *The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, removing the cats actually made life worse for the petrels, since that left more kiore to prey on them. Only when the rats were eliminated did petrel breeding success increase.”

Another fiasco resulting from exterminating cats has occurred on Robben Island, off Cape Town, South Africa. A hunter hired by the South African National Park Service shot the island cat population down from more than 100 to just two as of February 2007. Without cats to hunt feral rabbits on the island, the rabbit population soared from about 3,000 to more than 5,000 within the next year. The rabbits have eaten so much vegetation that about 150 fallow deer, 20 springbok, and two bontebok on the island are reportedly at risk of starving.

“The management of Robben Island has given Searl Derman, owner of the Aquila private game reserve, the go-ahead to capture and remove the starving antelope so that the degraded grazing can recover,” *Cape Argus* reporter Eve Vosloo wrote on June 8, 2008.

Gough Island, in the South Atlantic, never had any cats. “Today, the British-owned island, described as the home of the most important seabird colony in the world, still hosts 22 breeding species and is a World Heritage site,” summarized *Guardian* environment editor John Vidal on June 9, 2008. “But as a terrible consequence of the first whalers making land-fall there 150 years ago, mice stowed away on the whaling boats jumped ship and have since multiplied to 700,000 or more on an island of about 25 square miles. What is horrifying ornithologists is that the British house mouse has somehow evolved, growing to up to three times the size of ordinary domestic house mice, and has become a carnivore, eating albatross, petrel and shearwater chicks alive in their nests. They are now believed to be the largest mice in the world.”

Listing two Gough bird species as critically endangered and five others as threatened, Birdlife International and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds have “proposed hiring helicopters to drop thousands of tons of rodent poison on the volcanic island 2,000 miles off the coast of South America,” Vidal added.

“We think it could be done fairly easily, and would cost about £2.6 million,” a spokesperson for the plan said.

The notion of poisoning the Gough Island mice gained momentum from a June 7, 2008 proclamation by the National Trust of Scotland that a three-year poisoning onslaught has extirpated rates from the Isle of Canna, off the Scottish coast. The 15,000 resident sea birds, of 14 species, were said to be threatened by 10,000 rats, about 20 times as many as the typical sustainable ratio of predators to prey.

“In 2005, the trust brought in a team of pest-eradication experts from New Zealand,” explained Raphael G. Satter of Associated Press. They laid out 4,388 traps. Some 25 tons of rodenticide were shipped in to arm the traps” or about five pounds per rat if there really were 10,000 rats.

Nesting habitat

While cats and rats most often take the rap, “Managing deer to suit hunters may be the major cause of vanishing songbirds,” ANIMAL PEOPLE suggested in March 1997, citing the overlap of record high deer populations with reported songbird declines throughout the Northeast.

Deer overgrazing nesting habitat had just begun to be recognized as a problem. Now increasingly abundant elk are doing the same thing in Rocky Mountain National Park, but in a different way, Jeff Connor of the



Feral cat near Lake Erie. (Sue Clark)

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory warned a conference of park biologists in April 2008. At issue, Connor explained to Steve Lipsher of the *Denver Post*, is that elk are eating so many replacement shoots that the aspen many birds depend upon for nesting sites are not regenerating at adequate speed.

“More than one-fifth of the trees used by birds such as woodpeckers, northern flicker and mountain chickadee fell during a 10-year study that ended in 2006,” summarized Lipsher. “Researchers found 108 of 550 trees with cavities [suitable for nesting] had fallen between 1997 and 2006, and others couldn’t be found, Connor said.”

The major natural predators of elk are wolves, but wolves spreading south through the Rockies from the Yellowstone region have yet to reach Rocky Mountain National Park. “In the absence of major predation, park officials have initiated a controversial effort to test a birth-control drug on the elk and plan to begin killing as many as 200 of the animals next winter,” Lipsher wrote.

In urban habitat, “Most ecologists have assumed that common nest predators—such as house cats and raccoons—destroy eggs or kill young birds in greater numbers than in rural areas,” but this appears to be incorrect, explained Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources publicist Jeff Grabmeier in an April 2004 summary of findings by OSU associate professor of wildlife ecology Amanda Rodewald.

Rodewald found by monitoring nests that “predators weren’t the main problem,” Grabmeier said. “Urban areas had more predators, such as raccoons, compared to rural areas. But these predators did not raid nests more often, Rodewald said. Instead, urban birds “arrived later in the spring, left earlier in the fall, made fewer nesting attempts, and were much less likely to return to nesting spots from year to year.”

Added Rodewald, “There is something about these urban forests that strikes the birds as unsuitable. Even when they try nesting, they are less likely to renest after failure or to return in subsequent years.”

Rodewald and wildlife ecology graduate student Daniel Shustack published their findings, funded by the National Science Foundation and the Ohio Division of Wildlife, in the *Journal of Animal Ecology*.

Other threats to birds

High Country News recently compared causes of violent avian deaths, using data gathered by the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish Wildlife Service, and the American Ornithologists’ Union. The leading cause, by far, turned out to be collisions with reflecting windows and lighted buildings, killing about half a billion birds per year. Collisions with power lines, killing 130 million birds per year, was second, followed by cat predation, killing about 100 million birds per year, and collisions with cars, killing about 80 million.

Avian roadkill is believed to have steeply increased in recent winters in the Cascade mountains of western Washington and parts of Canada, *Wenatchee World* staff writer Rick Steigmeyer reported in February 2008, citing data gathered by retired U.S. Forest Service wildlife biologist Heather Murphy, Wenatchee Valley College biology professor Dan Stephens, and members of the Upper Basin Birders, of Leavenworth, Washington.

The cause of the winter avian roadkill increase may be intoxication by the liquid magnesium salt deicer often added to the calcium chloride salt used to make mountain highways less slippery in winter. Ground-feeding birds such as finches ingest the deicer while pecking road grit to fill their gizzards, the researchers believe. The problem has worsened with increased human population and winter vehicle traffic in the regions where the rise in avian roadkills has been observed.

The American Bird Conservancy, whose founding issue was antipathy toward neuter/return feral cat control, is now emphasizing other threats to birds. The conservancy, represented in court by EarthJustice, scored a significant regulatory victory in February 2008, when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ordered the Federal Communications Commission to seek ways of reducing the estimated toll of five to 50 million birds killed each year in collisions with communication towers.

But the American Bird Conservancy’s Project PredatorWatch survey “is still collecting information to help determine the extent of predation on birds at bird feeders across America,” reminded conservancy publicist Steve Holmer. Project PredatorWatch has since December 2006 collected more than 860 reports from birders who claim to have found evidence of predation at their feeders.

“In 2008,” said Holmer, “ABC’s new Cats Indoors Campaign coordinator Grant Ellis will collaborate with scientists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to compile, analyze, and report the findings. The study will, among other things, cover the number of bird kills Project PredatorWatch has recorded, and the relative percentage taken by different predators.”

—Merritt Clifton



Raccoons are wrongly blamed for harming bird populations. (Kim Bartlett)

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USDA to reinstate ban on killing downers for human consumption (from page 1)

the federal expense associated with the largest U.S. beef recall ever. Most of the costs were incurred to buy more than 50 million pounds of beef for the National School Lunch Program, which then had to be disposed of and replaced, said USDA Agricultural Marketing Service deputy administrator Craig Morris. The bill was basically a formality before the tab was passed to U.S. taxpayers.

Beef industry representatives had mixed responses to the Westland/Hallmark case, Schafer's announcement, and the prospect of further regulation of slaughter.

Attorney Bob Hibbert of the Washington D.C. law firm K&L Gates warned in the May edition of the trade journal *MeatingPlace* that as his headline put it, "By failing to challenge USDA on the massive Hallmark recall, the industry has left the door open for similar situations in the future."

"This is not a food safety issue, but a consumer perception issue," wrote Troy Marshall for *Beef* magazine, in partial agreement and partial rebuttal, "and the modification of the rules that would prohibit slaughter of all disabled non-ambulatory cattle has widespread industry support as a result...This is expected to impact less than three head in 1,000. Personally, I'm amazed that the number could be that high," observed Marshall.

"The complaints directed toward the industry on how we deal with our cull animals may be justified in some instances...When it comes to food safety," Marshall added, "the issue has never been about the majority, but rather that one-in-10,000 or one-in-a-million event that can cause irreparable harm."

The American Meat Institute, National Meat Association, and the National Milk Producers Federation jointly announced on April 22, 2008 that they had petitioned the USDA to enact a total ban on slaughtering downed cattle for human consumption, after nearly 20 years of opposing legislation that would have imposed such a ban.

"We think that the time has come," National Meat Association spokesperson Jeremy Russell told Werner. "We want to send a clear message to consumers that we're putting their welfare and concerns ahead of the economics." The National Meat Association represents about 400 packers and processors.

More reforms needed

"A bright-line ban on processing downed cattle was in place from January 2004 to July 2007," as a precaution against slaughtering animals who might be afflicted by mad cow disease, HSUS senior vice president for legislation Mike Markarian recalled, "until it was inexplicably weakened."

Assessed Markarian, "Further policy reforms are needed. The rule should include not just downed animals at the point of slaughter, but also at auctions and markets. These creatures should receive veterinary care or be humanely euthanized without delay. And the prohibition should apply not only to cattle, but also to pigs and other livestock, who deserve the same protections from abuse when they cannot stand or walk. The Downed

Animal and Food Safety Protection Act," the current version of federal anti-downer legislation introduced repeatedly since 1991, "would achieve these added protections, if they are absent from USDA's action.

"We also need more meaningful penalties for facilities that slaughter downed animals," Markarian continued. "And we need basic animal welfare standards for food purchased through the National School Lunch Program and other federal programs, to raise the bar in the marketplace when our tax dollars are at work and our children are at risk."

Markarian mentioned video released by HSUS on May 7, 2008 showing downed cows and a calf who allegedly were neglected at auctions in Maryland, New Mexico, Pennsylvania and Texas.

"The problems are systemic, the laws and regulations are inadequate, and the industry's resolve insufficient," said HSUS president Wayne Pacelle, who shared the videotaped findings with Schafer five days before making them public.

Reported *Farmed Animal Watch*, "In response to the video, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association said it has distributed over 2,000 cattle care and handling training videos to the country's 1,250 markets and other cattle sales locations, and that it is conducting hands-on staff training sessions at farmed animal markets. The Livestock Marketing Association said it is working on an animal handling assessment/certification program for market owners and employees."

More violators exposed

Following the HSUS exposé of cruelty to downed cattle at the Westland/Hallmark slaughterhouse, two other National School Lunch Program suppliers were cited by the USDA for similar violations, Associated Press writer Frederic J. Frommer revealed on April 30, 2008.

"Audits by the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service resulted in 'noncompliance' findings at a National Beef Packing Company plant in Dodge City, Kansas, and a Cargill Meat Solutions plant in Fresno, California, according to information obtained under a Freedom of Information Act request," Frommer wrote. "The audits of 18 slaughterhouses found that some cattle were not stunned properly on the first try, others were subject to overcrowding, and others had to be electrically prodded to get them to move."

The Cargill violations were downgraded on appeal from a finding of noncompliance to a letter of concern, Frommer reported.

"The merits of their appeal were acceptable," USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service spokesperson Amanda Eamich told Frommer.

"But she declined to provide any specifics," Frommer said. "Cargill spokesperson Mark Klein also declined to discuss why the noncompliance record was rescinded."

Continued Frommer, "The USDA told Senator Herb Kohl (D-Wisconsin) in a letter that the audits found violations in four of the 18 slaughterhouses reviewed—including

one serious enough to lead to a temporary suspension—but declined to identify the plants. Kohl, who chairs the [U.S. Senate] Appropriations agriculture subcommittee, requested the audits following the Westland/Hallmark violations.

"In addition to Cargill and National Beef, the Food Safety Inspection Service temporarily shut down Martin's Abattoir & Wholesale Meats, in Godwin, North Carolina, for insufficiently stunning animals, failing to make them insensible to pain on the first attempt; and issued a noncompliance order to Dakota Premium Foods in South St. Paul, Minnesota, for excessive bunching of cattle going into the stunning area," Frommer wrote.

The Cargill noncompliance record cited violation of a regulation stating that "driving livestock from the holding pens to the stunning area should be done with a minimum of excitement and discomfort to the animals."

Summarized Frommer, "Food Safety Inspection Service officials said that in reviewing 36 animals, virtually every one balked at entering the restrainer, and to keep them moving, an electric prod had to be used on 10 to coax them along. Three still refused, even after prodding, and had to be stunned and rendered unconscious 'so that they could be pulled through the restrainer to be shackled, hung, and bled,' the noncompliance record states. The record says that 'a design flaw is creating a situation where the animals may have to be prodded excessively...'"

Cargill spokesperson Klein contended that the cattle balked at the presence of the Food Safety Inspection Service investigators, and claimed that the prods used to move the cattle did not have batteries.

"We use electric prods less and less," Klein told Frommer. "They still are in use, but greatly restricted. Electric prods are frowned upon."

This caused HSUS factory farming campaign senior director Paul Shapiro to wonder why Cargill would use electric prods without batteries, especially if the cattle had not been conditioned by prior shocking to recognize the prodding devices.

National Joint Council of Food Inspection Locals chair Stan Painter on April 17, 2008 told the U.S. House of Representatives Oversight and Government Reform domestic policy subcommittee that USDA officials "tried to intimidate him and other employees who reported violations of regulations, an allegation denied by the agency," summarized Frommer of Painter's testimony.

"Painter said that following a mad cow disease scare in 2003, he told superiors that new food safety regulations for slaughtered cattle were not being uniformly enforced. Painter said he was told to drop the matter, and when he didn't, was grilled by department officials and then placed on disciplinary investigative status," Frommer continued.

This "caused a chilling effect on others within my bargaining unit to come forward and stand up when agency management is wrong," Painter said.

USDA undersecretary for food safety Richard Raymond testified that in 2007 the USDA suspended 66 plants, including 12 slaughterhouses, for inhumane animal handling practices.

Texas AgriLife Extension meat specialist Dan Hale told *Beef* freelance correspondent Larry Stalcup that the 2007 National Market Cow and Bull Beef Quality Audit of 23 slaughterhouses, conducted from December 2006 to September 2007, found that 63% of the cattle slaughtered had been bruised in transport or handling, an improvement from 1999, when 89% were bruised.

Maryland auction yard

The Maryland Department of Agriculture on May 29, 2008 responded to HSUS video showing alleged abuse of a downed cow at the Westminster Livestock Auction Market by charging auction market owner James E. Horak with four counts of vio-

lating state animal health regulations, and by strengthening the existing regulations to require inspectors who tell a facility operator how to handle a downer to confirm the next day that the instructions have been followed.

"After investigating this matter, the agency believes that the market was not prepared to handle downer animals that night, and as a result, a downer cow was not treated in a humane manner," Maryland agriculture secretary Roger Richardson told David Dishneau of Associated Press.

"Horak, of Hanover, Pennsylvania, didn't return a telephone call from Associated Press," Dishneau wrote. "He has until June 12 to respond to the charges. Penalties could include suspension or revocation of Horak's operator's license and possible criminal charges, said state agriculture department spokeswoman Sue duPont."

Delivered to the auction in mid-afternoon for evening sale, the Holstein cow in question collapsed soon after she was unloaded. "Since downer cows cannot be sold, Horak agreed to have the animal rendered at the owner's expense, according to the charging document," wrote Dishneau. "Two of Horak's workers, assisted by market customers, then used a chain and a small skid loader with a bucket to push and drag the cow about 45 feet to a spot outside the auction building, according to the document."

This in itself, reported Dishneau, "constitutes an inhumane act," according to the charging document.

Then, Dishneau continued, "Rather than euthanize the cow or place her under a veterinarian's care, Horak left her outside overnight, the department alleges. At about 10:15 a.m., HSUS investigators found the cow in the same spot, without water, 'in obvious distress and discomfort,' the charging document states. They called a Carroll County Animal Control officer who euthanized the animal, the charging document states."

"We did not consider the cow to be in distress. I think I'm getting railroaded here because of pressure from HSUS," Horak told Carrie Ann Knauer of the *Carroll County Times*, in Westminster, Maryland.

California case

The extent of animal suffering at smaller livestock sale and slaughter venues was meanwhile illustrated at the opposite end of the U.S. in early May when Santa Cruz County Animal Services removed 12 goats, a sheep, a cow, and two rabbits from the Toledo Harkins Slough Ranch in Watsonville, and charged owner Efrain Toledo "for having a non-ambulatory animal at a slaughterhouse, failing to provide vet care, and depriving an animal of food and water," reported *Santa Cruz Sentinel* staff writer Jennifer Squires.

Many of the animals had respiratory infections and were emaciated, Santa Cruz County Animal Services supervisor Todd Stosuy told Squires.

Wrote Squires, "Stosuy, who initiated the investigation, said he was unsure if the animals' ailments would pose a risk to humans consuming meat products derived from the livestock, but said some of the animals could have died of malnutrition, hoof rot or blood loss without intervention."

Said Stosuy, "Even though these animals were in line to be slaughtered, they need medical attention, they need proper food and they need proper care."

Explained Squires, "The slaughterhouse, which advertises through fliers around town, apparently kills and dresses out livestock for people who come to the facility and select an animal. The meat is not individually packaged for sale at local grocery stores."

Hundreds of similar slaughterhouses operate in rural communities and on the fringes of cities, often serving ethnic communities, unobserved by the USDA and often unknown to state agencies because they do not sell meat across state lines or at retail markets.

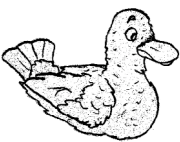
—Merritt Clifton



Goat slaughter volume is rising in the U.S. —often at uninspected facilities. (Kim Bartlett)

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“*Sacred Animals of India* was to have been ready in time for the Asia for Animals conference held in January 2007 at Chennai,” prefaces author Nanditha Krishna. “However, when I began researching the subject, I discovered a wealth of material that was impossible to ignore. So I decided not to rush, and to cover the subject in greater depth.”

A prominent cultural anthropologist, Nanditha Krishna had actually been researching *Sacred Animals of India*, if not in a specific, focused way, for most of her life. She is author of many previous books on related subjects, is a nationally distributed newspaper columnist, is a longtime member of the board of directors of the Central Zoo Authority in India, and has served on the board of World Wildlife Fund-India. Her husband is Blue Cross of India chief executive Chinny Krishna. All of this background informs *Sacred Animals of India*.

“The ancient religions of India—Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism, apart from several sub-sects—have never differentiated between the soul of a human being and the soul of an animal,” Nanditha Krishna opens. Many and perhaps most of the prominent people in Indian history and mythology are believed to have had multiple animal incarnations. Stories of their animal past are often incorporated into their biographies. The Buddha, for instance, is believed to have been a white elephant before his birth as the human prince Siddhartha, and to have been a golden peacock and to have had 18 lives as a monkey before becoming the elephant.

“In Indian tradition there are several types of roles assumed by animals,” Nanditha Krishna explains. “First, there are those who are gods themselves: the elephant god Ganesha and the monkey god Hanuman are the better known ones, although animals like the tiger and the blackbuck are equally sacred in their local milieu. The qualities of the animals are assumed by the animal deity, and an elaborate mythology built around them.

“Then there are the *vahanas* or vehicles of the gods,” who “may be equals, inferiors, or companions. Some like the bull and eagle started off as equal companions of Shiva and Vishnu, respectively, although they were relegated to minor roles as the cults of Shiva and Vishnu grew. Many were probably totemic figures who acquired a lower position as they were absorbed by the wider Hindu pantheon. The totemic tradition was more widespread than is generally perceived,” Nanditha Krishna notes, pointing out the animal origins of many common Indian names.

“The third role played by animals is as friend and companion,” Nanditha Krishna continues, observing that many Indian mythological figures had animals in roles filled in other cultures by human associates—and many also had at least one dog.

“Some animals were regarded as demons. This is best illustrated by Mahisha the buffalo demon, ruler of ancient Mysore, who was defeated in a terrible battle by Durga,” a myth embodying the conflict between herders and agrarians. The herders lost. Their god became a demon, “but Mahisha lives on,” Nanditha Krishna mentions, as the buffalo god of several tribal minorities.

Being regarded as a sacred animal helps to protect some species, but not always. “In many Indian societies, especially in the rural parts of the country,” Nanditha Krishna explains, “animals are sacrificed to deities. Each slaughtered animal receives divine honors,” but this is of little value in preventing animal suffering.

On the other hand, some reformers have succeeded in persuading practitioners of animal sacrifice that slaughter is not an essential part of veneration. Most of the animals who are today protected by Hindu, Buddhist, and/or Jain tradition were once commonly sacrificed, including cows in early Vedic times.

Abolishing animal sacrifice and meat-eating were among the earliest themes in recorded Indian history.

“A unique aspect of Indian culture is its abhorrence for killing very early in its development,” Nanditha Krishna writes.

“Although the Aryas,” who were among the earliest literate Indians, arriving around 1,500 B.C., “were not vegetarians, the concept of non-killing enters Indian thought process very early. The earliest literature, the *Rig Veda*, condemns all forms of killing, even for food, even to the extent of preferring vegans to drinkers of milk.”

Indian cultural evolution has centered on conflicts between meat-eaters and vegetarians ever since. Examples include the development and divisions of castes, which are differentiated by diet as well as ancestry and traditional occupations; the anti-sacrificial movements that became Buddhism and Jainism; and resistance to meat-eating foreign influences, including invasions by Muslims and governance by Britain.

Sacred Animals of India could conceivably be expanded into an encyclopedic history of animals in Indian culture, especially by delving further into regional nuances which Nanditha Krishna mentions mostly in passing. As it stands, *Sacred Animals of India* is a succinct introduction, briefly outlining the beliefs associated with 52 species, noting major variations of belief and associated controversies, but not lingering long on any one topic.

In the beginning

The opening chapter, to a non-Indian, can be a bit like landing in India as a first-time visitor. Few of the polysyllabic names will be familiar. Allusions to characters and legends known to almost every Indian, but little known elsewhere, come with dizzying frequency. The alphabetical organization of the book doesn’t help, since several species of relatively minor significance are introduced ahead of those whose chapters help to put the rest in context.

In view of the competing beliefs of adherents to different branches of Hinduism, organizing *Sacred Animals of India* alphabetically may have been unavoidable to avoid offense, but non-Indian readers will probably find it easier to read if they begin with the mid-text chapters on cows and Lord Krishna, Ganesha and elephants, and Hanuman and monkeys, including the story of Rama.

“The true hero of the *Ramayana* is Hanuman,” Nanditha Krishna writes, “who is flawless, with superhuman skill which he uses for the triumph of truth and goodness and the destruction of evil represented by demons. So popular is Hanuman that he and his exploits have been held up as role models through centuries,” and is even credited as “the ninth author of grammar.”

Once these relatively universal stories are understood, the rest sort themselves out. Indian mythology is not really unfathomable chaos, contrary to initial impression. The mythical and historical roles of animal species ubiquitous to the subcontinent are among the links that hold the otherwise bewildering variations of Hindu identity together.

Explanations of Hinduism typically begin with a shared belief in reincarnation, but could as easily begin with a structure that for thousands of years has enabled the mainstream to assimilate minority beliefs by grafting their teachings into shared mythology. Roles have been found for each totemic species in the stories of Krishna, Ganesha, Hanuman, and Rama, reflective of the roles and status of the people who venerate the totems.

Along the way, Hinduism has shared or absorbed huge portions of the mythology of other cultures. Nanditha Krishna frequently notes parallels with Zoroastrian traditions native to Persia, and some similarities to Egyptian beliefs emerging in early pharonic times. The Biblical story of Noah and the Great Flood appears in Vedic literature as the story of Manu, and in a variant, the story of Satyavrata. The role of the dove in the Biblical version belongs to the blood pheasant (so-named for coloration) among the Lepcha people of Sikkim.

The apparent migration of mythology from the Middle East through Central Asia to India is consistent with the evidence that India was peopled by successive invasions from the west, as well as with the importance

Dogs Gone Wild

After Hurricane Katrina

by Theresa D. Thompson

Tate Publishing (127 E. Trade Center Terrace, Mustang, OK 73064), 2008. 127 pages, paperback. \$14.99.

In the age of “instant” book publishing to commemorate major events—and cash in while public interest is highest—*Dogs Gone Wild* is oddly enough the first book about the Hurricane Katrina animal rescue effort to reach **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, arriving nearly three years after Katrina inundated much of New Orleans and devastated the Gulf Coast from Alabama to Texas.

It is not the rescue memoir one might anticipate. Author Theresa Thompson is a retired medical secretary, recently widowed, who lives in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. She was not directly involved in the animal rescue. Neither was her sister, Charlotte Brown, who sent *Dogs Gone Wild* to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

“I applaud all the good work that humane workers and volunteers do,” Thompson e-mailed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “I have not been to any of the hurricane zones yet,” she acknowledged. but she and Brown are planning to attend the August 29, 2008 unveiling of a memorial to the animals lost to Katrina, commissioned by the Humane Society of Louisiana.

Dogs Gone Wild, though closely grounded in the factual events of Katrina and the aftermath, emerges from Thompson’s imagination of her own dogs caught in the predicament of the many thousands of dogs who were left behind. Some were left by people who went to work but could not return home before having to flee the city. Some were left by people who evacuated under

orders, but expected to be able to return soon. Some were left by people who died.

“Mr. Reds, the leader of the dog pack in my book, is my present dog,” Thompson told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “All of the dogs mentioned were my personal dogs at one point or another.”

The story of *Dogs Gone Wild* is told almost entirely through human-sounding dialog among the pack and the other dogs they meet. Much is awkwardly said by these evidently well-educated dogs that should have been left to descriptive passages.

The human victims of Hurricane Katrina were primarily African-American, as is Thompson. One might hypothesize that Thompson is telling the human story through animal characters, a device of fable-tellers since Aesop’s time, often used to awaken the consciences of those who have been indifferent to human suffering. A confrontation with dogs who are attempting to prevent looting in the French Quarter, in particular, evokes memories of the use of New Orleans police to prevent looting while evacuees were miserably stranded for days in the Superdome. The refugee dogs respond with phrases often heard in human rights causes, and after some debate over tactics, choose nonviolence.

Yet, though there is some poignant and pointed allegory in *Dogs Gone Wild*, it appears to be incidental to Thompson’s primary themes. Thompson is concerned about people, but her heart is with the dogs.

—Merritt Clifton

in more recent times of two-way trade between India and the Middle East.

There are hints, which Nanditha Krishna does not explore, that some of the myths underlying Hinduism were carried farther to the east and then north, in very early times, by ancestors of the people who eventually inhabited the Americas. The role of the tortoise who swims with a mountain on his back during the “churning of the oceans,” a creation story, closely parallels the Native American belief that the earth is carried on the back of a giant sea turtle. The stories of Garuda, the great raptor, and Naga, the snake, resemble Navajo and Hopi myths, and have similar variations in interpretation among tribes of conflicting totems.

The major point of interest in cultural teachings about animals from an animal advocacy perspective is the potential use of popular stories as a foundation for advancing the general idea that animals should be kindly treated, and where possible, advancing specific prohibitions of cruelty.

Relevance today

Nanditha Krishna notes many examples where the treatment of supposedly sacred animals is at odds with their divine status. “India had a rich tradition of respecting all life forms,” her preface concludes. “This respect has been destroyed: we have lost our ancient traditions without replacing them with anything similar or better. Unless we protect our wildlife from hunting and extinction, and our domestic animals from cruelty, we are not fit to call ourselves educated, or even a people who inherited a great legacy of ahimsa or non-violence.”

A less pessimistic view would be that as India modernizes and becomes better-educated, teachings about animal divinity are evolving in a manner gradually replacing empty ritual with more meaningful measures to prevent cruelty and protect habitat.

For example, the ancient concepts of the roles of temples, gaushalas (cow shelters), and sacred groves provide the cultural basis for establishing charity animal hospitals, shelters, and protected nature areas. Temples meanwhile mostly long ago ceased functioning as quasi-shelters, hospitals, and hospices, many gaushalas have become commercial dairies barely pretending to shelter any cattle in need, and ancient sacred groves guarded by custom rather than law may now be just a few trees shading outdoor markets.

In ancient times, the wisest and best-educated Indians might have recognized the ecological value of protecting snakes and the economic value of protecting cattle, but even when these ideas were accepted by the public, they tended to take self-contradictory

forms. Two examples still commonly seen are “worshipping” snakes by giving them milk, often by lethal force, and leaving surplus bull calves to starve or dehydrate as temple “offerings,” rather than kill any bovine.

Re-educating Indians to practice authentic kindness toward animals, sacred or otherwise, requires breaking traditions that were always at odds with their intent, on the one hand, and introducing more appropriate practices on the other.

The present is a time of transition, in which many old beliefs and practices are visibly eroding, while their replacements have yet to take hold firmly enough to discourage such excesses as animal sacrifice made possible on an unprecedented scale by the advent of trucks to deliver more animals to the altars, from farther away.

Nanditha Krishna mentions in passing the good-humored aspect of Ganesha, and the comic notion that his steed is a mouse, or in some regional variants of his story, a rat. Discussing humor in religion can be a particularly sensitive issue because of the seriousness with which devotees often take their beliefs, to the point that even mentioning that major religious figures used comic metaphors and made puns tends to be disputed. Depicting religious figures in cartoons—most recently but not exclusively Mohammed—has provoked deadly riots.

Yet humor of the ironic, slapstick, and self-effacing varieties figures prominently in the stories of many species considered sacred in India, including in some traditions which appear to emphasize the importance of kindness over ritual, even if these traditions originally had another meaning.

For instance, Nanditha Krishna writes, “In the town of Deshnoke, in Rajasthan, the Karni Mata temple is devoted to the worship of rats. The 600-year-old temple is dedicated to Karni Mata, a famous mystic of her times, believed to be an incarnation of goddess Durga...It is believed that the rats will reincarnate as sadhus or holy men in their next birth.” Eccentric as the Karni Mata temple practices are, they remind visitors that no animal is unworthy of kindness, and that no human, however exalted, is above kinship to the humblest and most reviled of animals.

—Merritt Clifton

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Austrian activists on hunger strike after arrests

VIENNA—Association Against Animal Factories founder Martin Balluch and 13 other Austrian activists associated with at least seven organizations—and the Animal Conference 2006 held in Vienna—were reportedly arrested without charges on May 21, 2008, in dawn raids on as many as 24 homes and offices. The raids were noteworthy for the lack of information disclosed by Austrian authorities about the reasons for them and the findings of the police investigators.

“Ten people are being held in pre-trial detention, which could last for months, accused of ‘forming a criminal organization,’” said the Farm Animal Reform Movement in a supporting statement. “Seven, including President of the Austrian Association Against Animal Factories Professor Martin Balluch, are on a hunger strike and becoming very weak,” FARM added. Balluch, hunger striking for 20 days as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press, was said to have been hospitalized.

FARM and other organizations on June 11, 2008 demonstrated in support of Balluch and the other detainees at Austrian embassies and consulates in at least 12 U.S. and northern European cities.

Wrote Victor Schonfeld in a June 5, 2008 *Guardian* guest column, “Balluch’s lawyer, Stephan Traxler, has been shown excerpts from a police surveillance dossier of several thousand pages concerning minor acts of vandalism against fur shops and food establishments perpetrated by unknown persons

over recent years—incidents of windows broken, stink bombs set off and locks glued. In no instance were people hurt or attacked and no evidence linking the vandalism with the detainees has been offered. The planned launch of an initiative for an Austrian constitutional amendment about animal welfare has had to be postponed. It’s hard not to conclude that was the objective of the police action.”

Schonfeld in 1973 produced *The Animals Film*, a documentary narrated by Julie Christie, remembered as one of the major influences in sparking the rise of the animal rights movement.

Alleged Association Against Animal Factories managing director Harald Balluch, brother of Martin Balluch, “This police action is designed to discredit the work being done for animals. Through the police raids, our office along with four others has been brought to a standstill. Our computers with our complete data bank have been taken, along with all our mobile phones and years of research material. We have no possibility of contacting our supporters. Our phone and fax lines were also out of order for some time after the raid, making contact with media impossible.”

Martin and Harald Balluch and their girlfriends shared a Vienna flat.

“I awoke to the sound of the door being broken in,” Harald Balluch recounted in a written statement. “Immediately armed and masked people surrounded my bed where my girlfriend and I were sleeping and aimed their

weapons at us. They screamed at me that they would shoot me in the head if I moved. We have two elderly rescued dogs, who were brutally manhandled. As you can imagine, all four of us were absolutely terrified.”

“Balluch has a double Ph.D. in physics and philosophy, and is a former colleague of Stephen Hawking at Cambridge University,” wrote Schonfeld.

But Balluch is also a former associate of Barry Horne, a British activist who was convicted in November 1997 of committing a string of arsons against druggists, allegedly to protest against vivisection. Sentenced to serve 18 years in prison, Horne died on November 5, 2002, at age 49, after a two-week hunger strike, at least his fifth hunger strike since his conviction. Involved in animal advocacy since 1983, Horne had reportedly been arrested at least five times and convicted at least twice before in connection with “direct action” protest between 1988 and 1996.

Balluch recalled his acquaintance with Horne and demonstrations he led on Horne’s behalf in recent interviews with the online magazine *The Abolitionist* and the podcast radio series *Animals Voices*.

Espousing a more cautious and selective tactical approach than Horne and other militant British activists, Balluch has favored classic civil disobedience over covert action, and has emphasized doing mainstream political organizing to capitalize on favorable publicity after actions that disclose obvious cruelty to animals.

In March 2003, for instance, Balluch conducted an “open rescue” of seven hens from a farm in Kleinsiering. “There were six chickens in battery cages which by law should have held only four,” Balluch told media. “Dead chickens were rotting in the cages. The rescued birds were seriously ill, and one had to be put down” by the emergency

Rodeo cowboys sued

CHICAGO—The Electronic Frontiers Foundation, founded in 1990 to protect freedom of speech and press in cyberspace, on June 14, 2008 sued the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association on behalf of Showing Animals Respect & Kindness (SHARK), of Geneva, Illinois.

“SHARK videotapes and photographs rodeos to expose animal abuse, injuries, and deaths,” EFF explained. “SHARK posted more than two dozen videos to YouTube to publicize animal mistreatment. But the PRCA filed takedown demands for 13 videos under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. YouTube removed the videos and canceled SHARK’s YouTube account, even though the PRCA has no copyright claim in live rodeo events.”

Said EFF Intellectual Property Fellow Emily Berger, “Those bringing meritless copyright claims must be held accountable.”

veterinary clinic to which Balluch and a reporter took the hens at approximately 3 a.m.

Balluch complained to the Austrian veterinary authorities. The farmer was fined 200 euros and was ordered to reduce his caging density. Balluch was convicted of theft, but the Austrian High Court in June 2004 reversed the conviction, two weeks after the Austrian parliament—responding to strongly favorable coverage of the “open rescue”—passed a new national humane law that prohibits battery caging.

Balluch in January 2008 lost a year-long bid to have a chimpanzee named Matthew Hiasl Pan declared legally a person, when the Austrian Supreme Court rejected his last appeal. The chimp and a companion, Rosi, lived at a now bankrupt sanctuary. Balluch sought personhood status for Matthew Hiasl Pan as a test case, hoping to prevent him from being sold abroad, beyond Austrian protection. Matthew Hiasl Pan and Rosi were both captured in Sierra Leone in 1982 and smuggled into Austria for laboratory use, but were rescued by Austrian customs agents.

Ivory Markets in the USA

by Esmond Martin & Daniel Stiles

Save the Elephants (P.O. Box 54667, 00200 Nairobi, Kenya), 2008. 120 pages, paperback, produced in partnership with Care for the Wild International. No price listed.

Ivory Markets in the USA follows Esmond Martin and Daniel Stiles’ earlier comprehensive reports on the ivory traffic in Africa, southern and eastern Asia, and Europe. Martin, a geographer, and Stiles, an anthropologist, in each report thoroughly inventory and document all the ivory items they find offered for sale in examples of every type of retail outlet that might stock ivory. Dominoes, piano keys, and guitar picks attract their notice, as well as the ornate carvings that are most often associated with antique and therefore legal uses of ivory.

Under the African Elephant Conservation Act, passed by Congress in 1988, legal ivory imports into the U.S. are limited to items made more than 100 years ago, trophy tusks from the few African nations where elephants are not considered endangered, and tusks collected before the Conventional on International Trade in Endangered Species was ratified in July 1975.

Seemingly narrow as those restrictions are, “Over 40,000 worked ivory items, excluding personal effects, entered the U.S. legally from 1995 to 2007, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service,” Martin and Stiles found.

Their coast-to-coast survey of 16 U.S. communities discovered 24,004 ivory items available at 657 outlets, “most of which probably were legally for sale,” Martin and Stiles believe. “New York City had

by far the most ivory for sale, with 11,376 items, followed by San Francisco (2,777) and Los Angeles (2,605). The U.S. appears to have the second largest ivory retail market in the world after China/Hong Kong, as determined by the number of items offered for sale.”

Martin and Stiles believe that up to a third of the ivory they saw in the U.S. was illegally imported, “but this estimate in tentative and should be treated with caution because of the difficulty of dating ivory objects,” they acknowledge. “The western U.S., particularly Honolulu, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, appeared to have more post-1989 worked ivory for sale than eastern cities.”

The good news for the elephants whose tusks are carved into ivory is that the U.S. market is imploding. “The U.S. has a minimum of 120 full-and-part-time ivory craftsmen,” Martin and Stiles assess. “This is down from an estimate of 1,400 in 1989. No large ivory factories remain; craftsmen are scattered throughout the U.S., working in small shops, usually at home. They use mostly old, legal raw ivory,” including “broken or damaged ivory items.”

Total U.S. ivory use per year is now less than a ton, Martin and Stiles believe—less than a seventh of the pre-1989 total. Among the most characteristic U.S. uses of ivory are making knife and pistol handles.

—Merritt Clifton

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—Wolf Clifton

Harpoon: Into the heart of whaling by Andrew Darby

DaCapo Press (11 Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA 02142), 2008. 320 pages, hardcover. \$25.00.



Long covering whaling and whale-related politics for the *Melbourne Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Andrew Darby enjoys a reputation as the best there ever was on the whale beat, at least since Herman Melville wrote *Moby Dick*. He does well on other animal-related news beats too. More than 50 Darby articles have informed **ANIMAL PEOPLE** coverage of marine mammals, Australian wildlife, and issues involving Australian zoos. Darby’s work is conspicuous for providing depth of background and inside perspectives—and although Darby openly favors whales over whale-killing, some sources within the Japanese whaling industry appear to be willing to talk to him when they will not talk to anyone else.

In view of Darby’s history, one might expect *Harpoon: Into the heart of whaling* to anthologize his coverage, stitching individual articles into a narrative illustrated by personal observation. This is what most veteran journalists produce when they finally assemble a book about their beat over the past x-number of years; but if Darby has recycled any material at all, it seems to be incidental.

Harpoon is actually a history of human interactions with five iconic whale species. Sections cover right whales, blue whales, sperm whales, minke whales, and humpbacks. Fin whales don’t get an individual section, but are also extensively discussed.

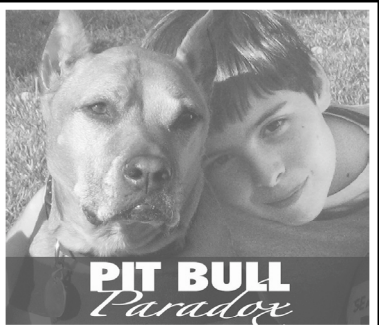
Each account begins with exploitation, then traces efforts to internationally regulate first the killing and then conservation of the species. There are quite enough variations of the theme to keep the focus fresh.

Much of *Harpoon* concerns the devious tactics of whalers over the centuries. At first they competed to kill whales, and guarded the secrets of

where to find them. Later, the Russian and Japanese whaling fleets, in particular, killed whales far in excess of the quotas set by the International Whaling Commission. The Russians quit whaling, more or less coincidental with the collapse of Communism, but Japanese excesses first documented on the initial post-World War II whaling voyage authorized by U.S. General Douglas MacArthur allegedly continue, albeit under the guise of “research” whaling since 1988.

The story is far from over. Darby at this writing is *en route* to cover the upcoming IWC meeting in Santiago, Chile. Once again the Japanese delegation is expected to bluster and threaten to withdraw from the IWC, and to use the threat to kill humpback whales for “research” to try to extract concessions from the other participants.

—Merritt Clifton



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Three-day eventing confronts rising toll on riders & horses

LEXINGTON, Kentucky—Widely regarded as an appropriate horse sport for young women, three-day eventing has in recent years suffered an injury and fatality rate among both horses and riders that rivals British steeplechase racing and appears to far exceed that of American-style track racing.

Public attention to safety in horse competitions as of June 7, 2008 remained focused on the parallel foreleg fractures suffered on May 3 by the filly Eight Belles, moments after she placed second to Big Brown in the Kentucky Derby.

In Lexington, however, leaders of the U.S. Equestrian Federation and U.S. Eventing Association met to try to figure out how to stop the little-noticed toll of eventing, which many eventing veterans believe was once much less than it is today.

“At least a dozen riders internationally have been killed in the past year and a half, and several horses have died or been euthanized later because of injuries suffered on cross-country courses,” wrote Janet Patton of the Lexington *Herald-Leader*.

“A rider was severely injured and two horses died at this year’s Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event in Lexington,” Patton mentioned, but that seemed no longer unusual.

“Darren Chiacchia, 43, who helped the U.S. Olympic team win a bronze medal at the Athens Games and was considered a favorite for this year’s team, was training a horse on an intermediate course in Tallahassee, Florida in March when the stallion crashed over a fence, crushing and nearly killing him,” wrote Katie Thomas of *The New York Times*. “Chiacchia spent a week in a coma.”

“An Olympic sport since 1912,” Thomas continued, “eventing originated as a way to test the ability and endurance of military horses. It is often called a horse triathlon

because participants compete in three events: the delicate footwork of dressage, the beauty and control of show jumping, and the endurance and daring of cross-country racing. Winding courses of up to two and a half miles are designed to mimic the natural obstacles of rural landscapes.

“The cross-country phase is the most dangerous,” Thomas wrote, “as horse and rider are required to clear 20 to 40 jumps in an established time period. All 12 recent deaths occurred during the cross-country phase as riders attempted to clear obstacles, including some that were startlingly simple. Most of the deaths resulted from rotational falls, somersaulting flips similar to Chiacchia’s.”

“We can improve safety by reducing one thing: horse falls,” Olympic gold medalist and U.S. Equestrian Federation president David O’Connor told Patton. O’Connor estimated that a rider has about a 2% chance of injury just falling off a horse; a 50% chance of injury if the horse falls too; and an 85% chance of injury if the horse and rider take a rotational fall.

Studying 51 eventing horse fatalities occurring since 1996, Ohio State University veterinarian Catherine Kohn found that 38 died on cross-country courses, and five more died after completing cross-country events. Twelve of the 15 horses known to have taken rotational falls landed on their heads and/or necks.

“The only safe thing you can say is we have seen fatalities at all levels,” Kohn told the Lexington gathering.

“The riders who died,” Thomas reported, “ranged in age from 17 to 51. Some, like Sherelle Duke, 28, of Ireland, were considered top riders. Others, like 17-year-old Mia Eriksson of Tahoe City, California, were just starting out.”

Eriksson fell off her seven-year-old

gelding during a November 2007 event at Galway Downs in Temecula, California. The horse, Koryography, fell on top of her.

Her older sister, Shana Virginia Eriksson, 18, died in a trail riding accident at Fresno State University in September 2003. Cows apparently spooked her mount.

Summarized Thomas, “Top competitors and coaches argue that the sport’s growing popularity has attracted inexperienced riders who take too many risks. Amateur riders complain that courses are being designed beyond their skill level in order to challenge elite riders. There is also frustration that the governing bodies for eventing have not mandated the safety improvements they identified after another cluster of deaths nine years ago.”

U.S. Olympic eventing team coach and course designer Mark Phillips, ex-husband of Princess Anne of Britain, is often blamed for the present crisis. “As courses designed by Phillips and others create new challenges for elite competitors,” explained Thomas, “amateur riders say that lower-level courses have also become more difficult, to prepare aspiring riders for the next level.”

Phillips counterattacked recently on the U.S. Eventing Association web site, Thomas noted, accusing his critics of being in “a frenzied tailspin using the anonymity of cyberspace to cast a dark shadow over the future of the sport.”

Phillips told Patton that “American riders go too fast,” she wrote.

“Many eventing participants said they see dangerous riding every weekend, from Pony Club events to the highest levels of competition,” Patton concluded. “But stopping riders on course, a recent measure, has proved unpopular with parents,” U.S. Equestrian Federation president Kevin Baumgardner told her.

MEMORIALS

In memory of Clarice.
—June Carter

In memory of Eight Belles, another young horse who was raced too early and died too soon. May she run beside Barbaro in those acres of clover.
—Judy Youngman



In loving memory of Nicolas T. Cat, the Lion King, ever in our hearts,
6 July 1991 - 24 May 2008.
The lion sleeps tonight.
—The Petzak Family

In memory of Purr Box (12/3/87), Prometheus (3/21/81), Friendl (10/30/87), Lizzie (5/8/84), Boy Cat (12/26/85), Miss Penrose (11/18/98), Duke (11/1/98), Purr Box, Jr. (5/1/04), Mylady (8/1/06), Muffin (1/2/08), Blackie (9/9/96), and Honey Boy (11/1/05).



—Wolf Clifton

One Wing, 20-plus, an American bald eagle, died on May 6, 2008 from a tumor on his heart at the Bird Treatment & Learning Center in Anchorage, Alaska, his home since 1989, when he was rescued after the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. “Poisoned by crude oil, the eagle fought the rescuers so hard that he tore up his wing beating it against the ground. He arrived at Bird TLC a wreck, and founder Jim Scott had to amputate his wing. Scott did not expect him to survive, and decided to use him as a living blood bank to save other oiled eagles. “We took blood from him each day for several days, which you never do,” Scott said. “But he kept getting stronger and stronger. And he won a place in all our hearts.” A young man named Dane Ketner earned his Eagle Scout badge by building a habitat for One Wing and his eventual mate, the notoriously ornery Old Witch, who died in 2007.

The first polar bear to reach Iceland in at least 15 years was shot by police on June 5, 2008 near Skagafjörður, after swimming more than 200 miles from Greenland or drifting closer on an iceberg. “Iceland’s environment minister, Thorunn Sveinbjarnardóttir,” who recently acquiesced to the resumption of commercial whaling by Icelandic vessels, gave the green light for police to shoot the bear because the correct tranquilizer would have taken 24 hours to be flown in,” wrote Allegra Stratton of the *Guardian*. Added Stratton, “Sveinbjarnardóttir’s account was disputed by the chief vet in the town of Blönduó, Egill Steingrímsson, who said he had the drugs necessary in the boot of his car.” The vet said he could have had the tranquilizer flown to the scene in less than an hour. The most recent previous polar bear sighting in Iceland, near Strandir, also ended with the bear being shot. The earliest recorded sighting came in 890, 16 years after the first Vikings settled in Iceland.

OBITUARIES

Stephen Claussen, 41, was killed in a May 17, 2008 light plane crash in Englewood Township, New Jersey, along with pilot and plane owner John Ambroult, 60, of Eastham, Massachusetts. “Claussen, of Seattle, was best known for training Keiko, star of the blockbuster movie *Free Willy*, for six years in preparation for his release into the wild,” recalled Newark *Star-Ledger* staff reporter Maryann Spoto. Claussen and crash survivors Jaclyn Toth Brown, 28, and Juan Carlos Salinas, 43, of Mexico City, “worked for Texas-based Geo-Marine Inc. gathering data for an environmental impact statement the state Department of Environmental Protection will use in assessing what effect offshore wind-powered turbines may have on marine mammals and birds,” Spoto added. Raised in Bellvue, Washington, Claussen volunteered in his teens at the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in Tacoma, “driving down before work at 4 a.m. to help feed the animals,” wrote *Seattle Times* staff reporter Susan Gilmore. “This early-morning volunteer work

led to a job at Oregon Coast Aquarium tending to Keiko.” Claussen subsequently worked for the Free Willy/Keiko Foundation, “and was in the plane in 1998 with Keiko when he was taken to Iceland to be set free,” Gilmore continued. Claussen spent four years with Keiko in Iceland, but was criticized for not making faster progress toward releasing Keiko, and was replaced after the Humane Society of the U.S. took over the project in 2002. Swimming free soon afterward, Keiko died in 2003 in a Norwegian fjord. Claussen “resented the fact that Keiko was released when he was. Keiko was as close to a child as Stephen ever got. Keiko was Stephen’s kid,” his brother Jim Claussen told Gilmore.

Atsushi Ito, a keeper at the Kyoto City Zoo in Japan who shared the name of one of Japan’s leading film stars, was fatally mauled by an 11-year-old male tiger on June 7, 2008. “Police suspect Ito had failed to lock the cage door, allowing the tiger to slip into a room where he was working,” reported Associated Press. The accident paralleled the fatal mauling of Denver Zoo jaguar caretaker Ashlee Germaine Pfaff in February 2007, and the December 2007 critical injury of volunteer Chris Orr, 40, by a four-year-old tiger at the Shambala Preserve, operated by actress Tippi Hedren in Acton, California. Both Hedren and her daughter, actress Melanie Griffith, have been mauled in previous incidents at the site—Griffith in 1976, at age 19, early in her rapid rise to stardom.

ANIMAL OBITS

Jocko the spider monkey, 15, died from a fractured skull on May 7, 2008 at the Greater Vancouver Zoo in Aldergrove, British Columbia, fighting to protect his mate Mia, three years older, from night intruders. The intruders took Mia from the zoo. She has not been found. Born in captivity, Jocko and Mia had shared their habitat since 1993.

Sundar, 11, a male giraffe being moved from the Alipore Zoo to the Nandanakan Zoo in Bhubaneswar, India, became entangled in electric wires *en route*, riding in an open truck near twilight. “The necropsy revealed burn injuries in one of his ears. Such was the shock that Sundar sat down in an awkward position and his left hip was dislocated,” said Alipore Zoo director S. Chowdhury, who was outspokenly critical of the haulers’ 12-hour delay in returning Sundar to the Alipore Zoo for treatment. “Zoo officials said they could have saved the giraffe had the escort team brought him back immediately,” reported the *Telegraph*, of Calcutta. West Bengal forest minister Ananta Roy said the Alipore Zoo would not send the Nandanakan Zoo a replacement. The Nandanakan Zoo has had repeated scandals involving allegedly negligent or criminal treatment of animals, including the deaths of 13 tigers in less than a month in July 2000, and the beheading of a caiman soon afterward by two keepers, one of whom had been fired for theft. Twenty-one zoo guards and the zoo director were replaced after those episodes.



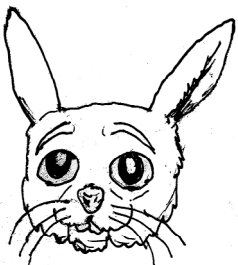
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